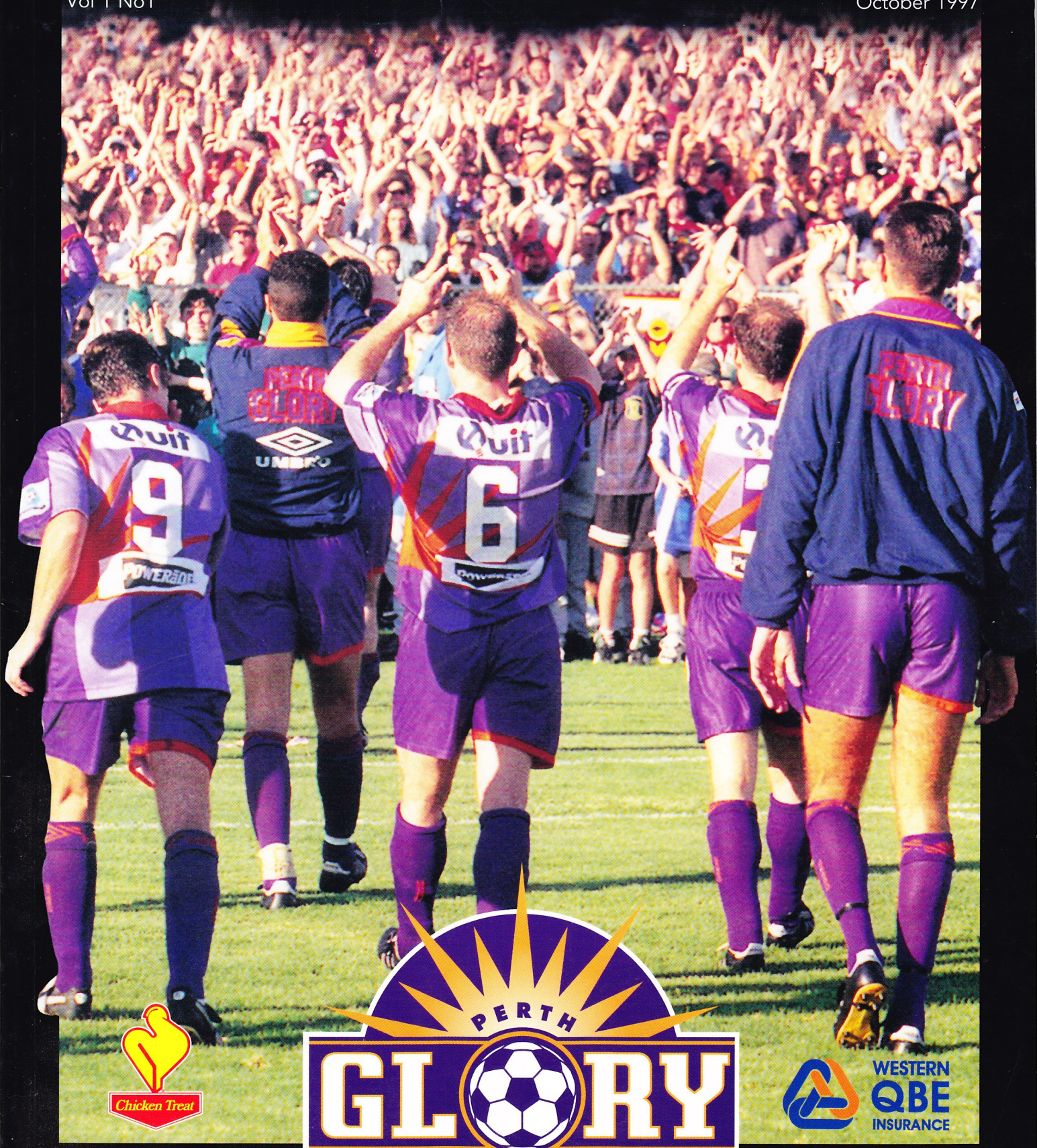
The Glory Story

Official Yearbook & Pre-Season Review

Vol 1 No1

October 1997



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INTOTO 05939

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PERTH GLORY YEARBOOK 1996/97

1996 will be remembered by all sport followers and especially soccer lovers as the year the greatest game on earth came of age in Western Australia.

Since Perth Glory's launch in December 1995 we have created national sporting history. A dream has been turned into reality. We achieved in soccer what no other state in Australia has been able to do. We united all of Western Australia behind one team Perth Glory.

Our inaugural season was a thundering success. We had statisticians working overtime as we continually rewrote the record books after every game. We doubled the national attendance and revitalised interest in the game.

The professional approach to the game both on and off the field paid dividends. Our sponsors were eager to come on board and the media recognised our successful formula by giving us unprecedented exposure.

Regrettably, our success and our formula cannot be rolled out overnight to other clubs in the Ericsson Cup as these clubs are not corporately structured but have evolved from social clubs. These same clubs are now under enormous pressure from both media and public to change. Like Perth Glory, they also must look to the future of the game and allow changes to happen. We are the new kids on the block and whilst our compatriots in the east may consider us as renegades or cowboys from the West we are nevertheless seen as role models.

Perth Glory's success can be attributed to many factors but at the end of the day the public are the final judges and they want to see results on the park. Our home grown talent, who have played their hearts out every week deserve all the credit. it was their skill, desire and passion coupled with our management that made Perth Glory what it is today.

With 14 of the original 19 man squad still with us for the next season and the inclusion of new off-season signings, we are confident that the 1997/98 season will be glorious. Go for Glory!

Nick Tana
Chairman

Published by:
West Australian Newspapers Limited
Simon Waight
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Pre-Press: Q Multimedium

Printing: Lamb Printers Pty Ltd

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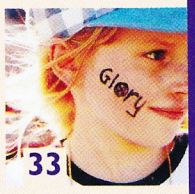

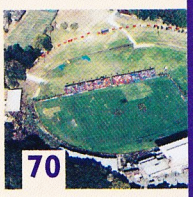

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TRANSPORT

GOING FOR GLORY

By Jim Davies

I have often been asked how the Glory name came about – well, here's the story. It all started when Nick Tana and Paul Afkos decided that they could successfully obtain the licence for a NSL soccer team for WA. That decision led to the fulfilling of a dream for them, myself and many, many other people. The dream that soccer could, indeed should, rival other mainstream sports in Western Australia.

But it's a long way from a dream to reality.

A small group: Nick, Paul, myself, Roger Ilefort and Tony Di Francesco met early (often at 6am and usually twice a week) through the cold winter of 1995, to plot and plan the venture. We were starting from scratch, every obstacle stood before us. How much will this cost? How many people will come? How will we recruit players? Where will they play? Who should be the coach? What should we be called? But before any of that, we all agreed on one thing – we needed a plan.

We resolved to do everything in a professional way and conceived a business plan. This was a very loose plan existing mainly in our minds in those early days. Many different areas had to be tackled simultaneously. My responsibility was marketing and in the beginning we had to come up with a name, logo and colours for the club. Before we could do that, we had to define what we wanted the club to stand for and simply stated it was "to symbolise the rebirth of soccer in WA". To create a new beginning for soccer here and put behind us the problems of the past.

We wanted to position the club as a contemporary Australian club (with no heritage in soccer in from the Northern Hemisphere). This was a different approach to other NSL clubs but the start of many things we were to do differently. To quote Nick Tana recently: "... all the major decisions we have taken have been 'left of field' and unexpected. It was assumed that we would be Establishment and traditional – we have done the reverse in almost every instance, and it is fortunate that we have chosen this path."

So not for us names like "United" or "City", or American names which depict aggressive animals ("Panthers" or "Pumas" which alliterate well with Perth). We wanted to be different. We were also very conscious not to show any ethnic bias in our positioning. We wanted to symbolise a new generation of soccer club, focused on the future of a multicultural Australia for all Australians. Hence we needed a name that had the potential to unite all Australians irrespective of background.

Therein formed the basis of a creative brief for 303 Advertising and the search for a name started. A naming competition was run in The West Australian and we received over 800 suggestions!

This list was used as a starting point and two copywriters were briefed to brainstorm names and eventually a long shortlist of over 50 names were discussed by the board. This was whittled down to a shortlist of five. On that list were "Flyers", "Storm", "Predators", "Red Backs" and "Glory".

Looking at that list now, it seems inconceivable that we didn't immediately go for "Glory" but Glory was one of the least preferred names at the time. There were misgivings as to alternative meanings (Oasis had a CD out at the time called "What's the Story Morning Glory"!) and in anecdotal testing did not come up strongly.

All the five names were given to graphic designer Steve Castledine (who also designed the Dockers logo) who explored logo styles for the different names. After two meetings, Steve recommended we call it GLORY, the soccer ball 'O' in the centre of the name, and the strong lettering style looked very powerful.

The more we lived with the name, the more it grew on us and slowly everyone agreed. Glory is a word often used in connection with sporting achievements and our thanks go to Mike Edmonds of 303, who had the foresight to put it on his original list of names.

The logo as we know it today, emerged after a series of design meetings. The sun symbol characteristic of Perth in summer (and it was interesting that we didn't get a single rainy day at home for the whole of our first season) and the orange and purple colours were agreed after a review of more traditional colour combinations.

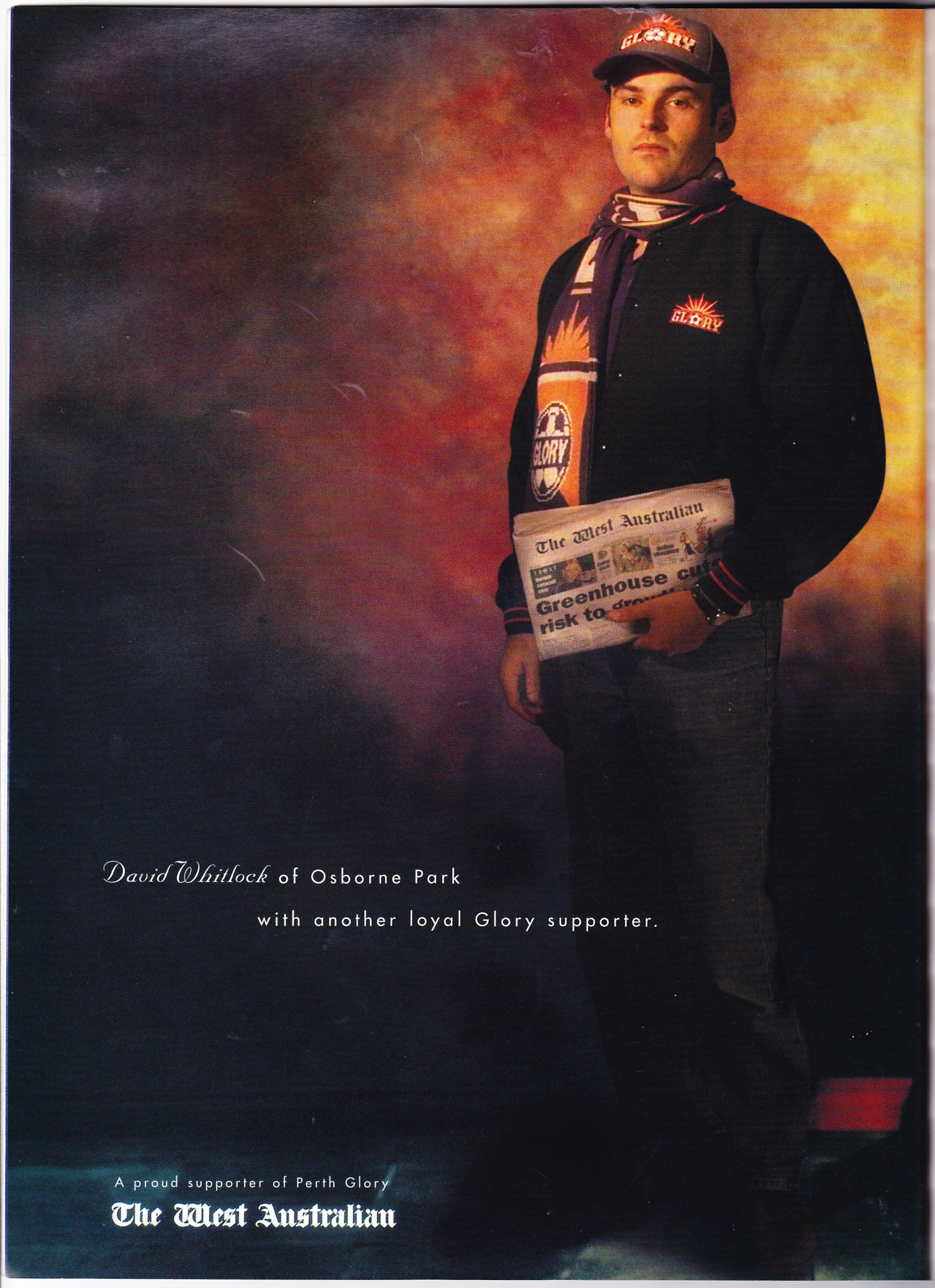
The next stage of the design process was to choose a typeface consistent with the logo. This would be used for all club communications and therefore was very important. The club's chosen typeface is Avenir, a simple, strong, modern sans serif typeface which although popular has not been overly commercialised.

Once all the elements of the logo and typeface were resolved we needed to design the players' strip. Obviously we wanted to reflect our choice of club colours and logo and at the same time be innovative. No stripes, no hoops, no single coloured jerseys, we wanted something more sophisticated. Designer Steve Castledine presented his ideas in an innovative way by mocking up designs on action pictures of players so we could see the effect as close to real life as possible. Lots of different ideas were tried and in the end we chose the 'wrap around' sunburst idea with the purple background and the 'away' strip was simply a negative image of this design as the Ericsson Cup rules state that no colour can be duplicated on home and away strips. Our solution: no colour at all, just black and white.

The designs were then shown to Umbro who then went on to create the full strip.

As with all creative projects, when we started out we really had no idea where we would end up, but we kept faith all the way with our original vision, and design brief.

Glory through its performance on and off the field, has well and truly captured the imagination of the WA sporting public and we believe the innovative name, logo and colours have contributed to this. As Glory goes on to write another proud chapter in the history of WA sport, a few of us will always remember the early days when we decided to Go for Glory.



David Whitlock of Osborne Park
with another loyal Glory supporter.

A proud supporter of Perth Glory

The West Australian

THE GLORY PHENOMENON

THANKS FANS...the players acknowledge the support from The Hill.

By Mel Moffat - of The West Australian

It was the longest party in Australian sporting history.

It started on Sunday, October 13, 1996, and concluded five months later on April 20, 1997.

And hardly anyone came up for breath in between.

The "It – factor" became known as the Perth Glory Phenomenon.

The club's debut season in the National Soccer League entranced the city of Perth, the state of Western Australia and the continent of Australia. Australian sport hadn't seen anything like it before. There was passion, drama, fun, excitement and a nailbiting atmosphere – and that was just in the crowd.

What took place on the pitch was just as absorbing, with the Glory's players taking everyone by surprise – probably themselves, too – by turning in some explosive performances, scoring some of the best goals in the Ericsson Cup competition and helping to give soccer the sort of profile that had previously been regarded as a pipedream.

Joining the excited thousands at Perth Oval every other weekend became the hip thing to do during the memorable summer of 1996-7. Long-time soccer enthusiasts, who had been waiting for 20 years to taste NSL action in Perth, were there from the start, swelling the crowd of 9639 that turned up for the historic opening game against UTS Olympic on October 13.

FABULOUS FIVE...lined up for the season ahead are Gavin Wilkinson, Vinko Buljibasic, Vince Matassa, Doug Ithier and Craig Naven.

Despite the 4-1 loss, you could sense that a sporting revolution was about to take place in Perth - and would be led by a gang of chanting, singing, exuberant and devoted enthusiasts who had mainly congregated in an area behind the city end goal that would eventually be dubbed The Hill or The Shed.

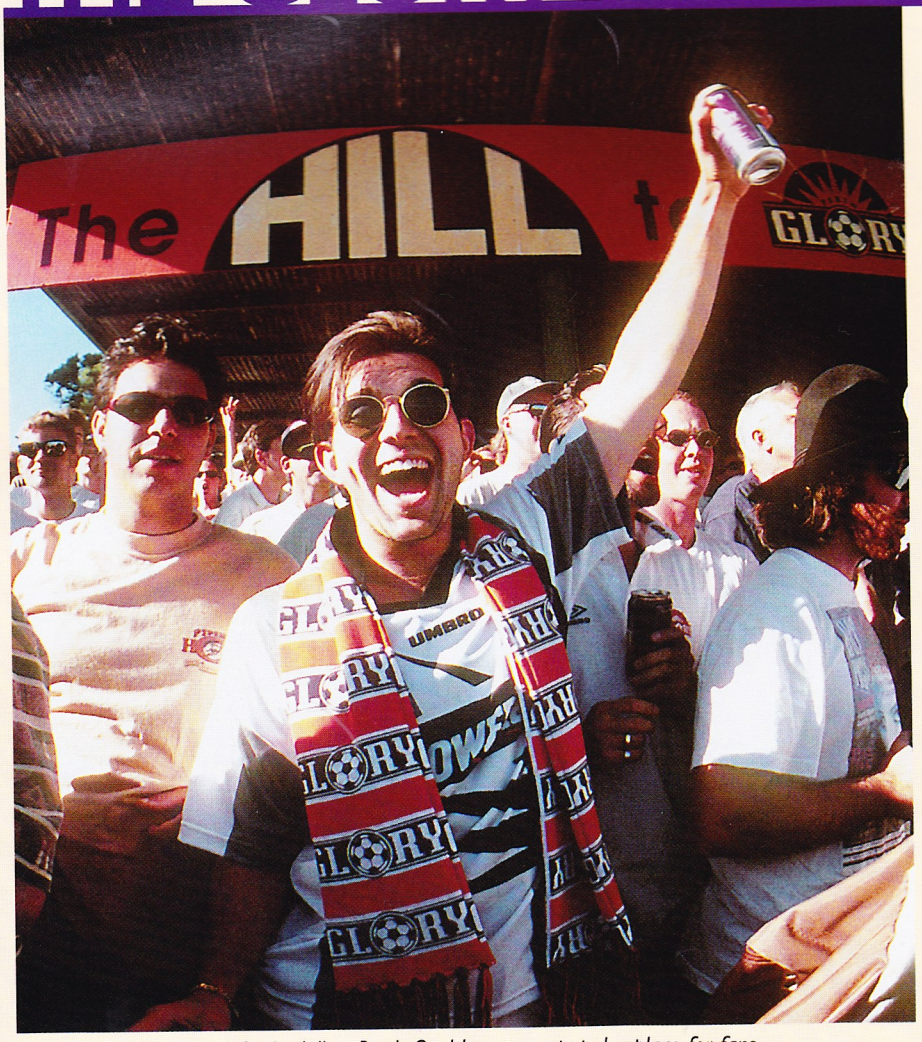
The background was unmistakably British. It was like the terraces of Anfield or Ibrox Park being transplanted in Perth.

But the witty and cynical comments, the sometimes X-rated chants – all aimed to unsettle and ridicule the Glory's opponents – and the passion exuded in renditions of "You'll Never Walk Alone" were soon echoing throughout the ground as others took up the call to be part of the Glory Mob, the Glory Army or the Mob on the Hill.

It was an all embracing rush of worship that totally eclipsed the ethnic factor in Australian soccer, which had been identified as the reason the sport had failed to achieve a major share of sporting audiences.

PLEASED TO MEET YOU...Socceroo coach Terry Vanables meets Vladimir Beretovac and teammates at training.

THE GLORY PHENOMENON



CHEERS...the hill at Perth Oval became a popular place for fans.

The Glory the new kid on the block, was suddenly the trendsetter. Soccer Australia chief David Hill proclaimed that the club was setting dizzy standards and others would have to follow the example or get left behind.

It was an endorsement cast in gold and within weeks the Glory was the talk of Perth – on TV, radio and the written media. The club eventually achieved the unique distinction of having its own TV show.

Curiosity is a wonderful thing. Non-soccer people had to satisfy theirs and came initially to Perth Oval to see what all the fuss was about – and stayed to become part of the Barmy Army.

Even superstars from rival codes like Australian Rules football and Rugby League were spotted in the crowd, deep in the pulsating heart of The Hill, loving every minute of it. They were mesmerised by the noise, the confusion and an atmosphere and enthusiasm that appears to be unique to soccer. The Glory players, after an understandably indifferent start to the toughest challenge of the careers of most of them, were blown away by the devotion of their supporters and eventually responded in kind with quality performances which eventually overtook the hype on the hill. It was all in stark contrast to what had been expected.

No one really knew what was on the horizon, but club officials thought it best to be prudent and opt for modest aims with a top 10 finish being touted as an anticipated mark of success for the newcomer to the big time and a spectator target of around the 5000 mark.

What eventuated blew everyone away.

The Glory put together an impressive run of six wins, two draws and one narrow loss during a heady spell from December 1 to February 9 to rocket to as high as third place on the ladder.

The turnstiles clicked merrily in response. During that time period the home crowds were 9765 (v Adelaide City), 10,281 (v Wollongong City), 14,757 (v Melbourne Knights), 17,582 (v Marconi) and 15,733 (v West Adelaide).

The gathering for the visit of Marconi was the second highest for a home-and-away fixture in the history of NSL.

From then on the turnouts ebbed and flowed, depending on the quality of the opposition and where the Glory was on the table at the time, but the crowd for the last home fixture, against South Melbourne on April 12, was a bumper 15,197.

CELEBRATION...Bobby Despotovski shares the Glory with Dale Wingell after he scored against Canberra.

It brought the home game total for the season to a remarkable 154,317, an average of 11,870, which was a NSL record.

The fans enjoyed some amazing home displays, like the 6-0 win over Canberra Cosmos, the character-building 2-1 defeat of Adelaide City, the exciting 3-2 triumph over the Melbourne Knights, with Scott Miller scoring a stunning late winner, the sensational 3-1 victory over league leader Sydney United and the emotional success over South Melbourne.

The emergence of the Glory also turned players with tongue twisting names like Bobby Despotovski, Vas Kalogeracos and Vinko Buljubasic into local heroes and put them in the forefront of Australian-based performers who could be involved in Socceroos coach Terry Venables' plans for World Cup and international matches.

Despotovski, who was the Glory's top scorer with 14 goals, did receive recognition with a call up for the Nintendo Superstars of Soccer series in late May and early June.

Kalogeracos capped a breathtaking season by winning the SBS Goal of the Year with his stunning long-range strike in the 4-0 win over South Melbourne. He got a hat-trick in the game, the only Glory player to achieve the feat during the year.

Other players to emerge as top-notch operators included New Zealand international Gavin Wilkinson, who won the Player of the Year award, livewire utility Scott Miller, hard working captain Gareth Naven, midfielder Paul Strudwick and former Socceroo Tony Carbone, who injected a new purpose in the Glory charge for a play-offs spot at the business end of the season.

That charge fell just one tantalising point short of the mark.

The Glory was two points clear of seventh-placed side, the Melbourne Knights, going into the final round. But a controversial defeat away to the Knights reversed the finishing positions.

It was a bitter pill for the Glory players, coach and management to swallow as they were carried speedily, and quietly, back to their Melbourne Hotel.

But a warm welcome at Perth airport from fans and families the next day soon had them reflecting that perhaps the debut season wasn't so bad after all. Indeed, it was a major achievement – on and off the field.

WELL DONE...Glory Boy's Bobby Despotovski and Vas Kalogeracos celebrate after scoring the last goal in the win over South Melbourne 4-0.

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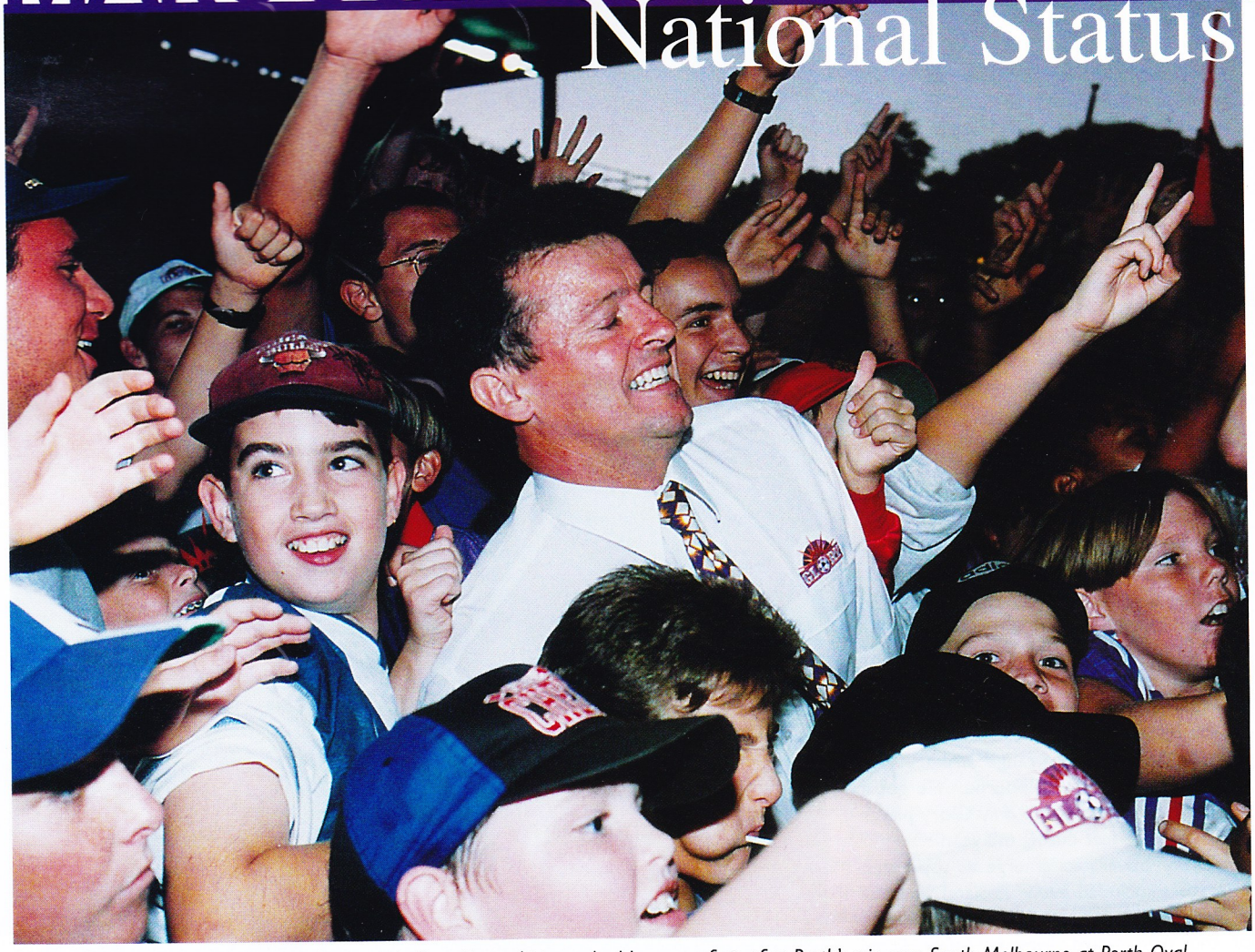
MAROCCHI GAINS National Status



WINNING FEELING...Perth Glory coach Gary Marocchi is crushed by young fans after Perth's win over South Melbourne at Perth Oval.

By Kevin McIlduff

THE 1996-97 season kicked-off in contrasting emotion for Perth Glory as those of a more pessimistic incline pointed out their lack of experience, quality and the limited nature of their squad.

Also, being a first-year club in the National Soccer League they would be expected to struggle, perhaps even come to believe they were out of their depth.

However, by mid-season a more optimistic outlook had taken over and now the club were listed as certainties to finish in the top six.

But wiser heads should have prevailed that the season would likely outlast the legs of Glory and, unfortunately, the more sombre approach was closer to the truth.

However, despite the disappointment at missing out on a top six berth, the season was nothing if not eventful. The experience gained should also fuel a hunger to succeed next term.

Glory's articulate and thoughtful coach, Gary Marocchi, rued their dip in form mid-season but suspected they would struggle at one point during the campaign.

Nevertheless he felt that what Perth Glory had accomplished should not be underestimated despite dropping out of a play-off position in the final match.

"At the end of the season I was obviously disappointed because I thought that we had done enough to finish in the top six," said Marocchi.

"But the highlight was proving that Perth Glory were a breath of fresh air for the Ericsson Cup and people started to look up to us and hopefully that aspect will continue.

"We had a disastrous spell of just two draws in five games against mainly bottom sides. We only needed to get one more point from those games and we were in the top six.

"That horror five-match spell really killed us."

Asked what factors brought about their form slump, Marocchi was to the point rather than dramatic.

"We had one or two suspensions with Bobby Despotovski and Vinko Buljubasic out and also lacking other senior players so we struggled," he said.

"I thought we could have pulled ourselves out of it earlier, but the lack of experience that permeated our team meant that we found it difficult.

"If we had been able to pick up Wynton Rufer during the January break then his experience may have helped us through that period as we don't have a lot of old heads at this level."

However, Marocchi prefers not to dwell on the negative aspects of what was a spectacular debut season. Emotional rides like the Sydney United, Adelaide City, South Melbourne and Melbourne Knights encounters at home (3-1, 2-1, 4-0 and 3-2 respectively) were moments to savour.

"The (Sydney) United game was probably the best the team played all season and, in front of a big crowd, to beat the League champions the players showed they could play at the top level.

"I would like to see more of that next season as we need a better home run — we only won six at home — and we need to win at least eight home games.

"Games like the Melbourne Knights result were built on emotion.

"We won 3-2 with a goal in the last 10 seconds. We thought we had lost it when they pulled it back to 2-2, but the crowd got the players going and they picked up.

"The emotion displayed after the game was even better."

Paradoxically, a heartbreaking seventh position may in the long-term prove beneficial for Perth Glory as it will stamp out complacency and focus energy on the struggles ahead.

"We are hopeful that this season will be better than the last," said Marocchi.

"We have tried to bring in more experienced players, but it also depends on what the opposition does as other teams could be more cautious against us and second-year blues are a difficult hurdle to overcome.

"But I think seventh place was a fair result as I would have been happy to finish outside of the bottom three.

"If we went out and bought seven-eight new players then you would expect to see a top six side, but we only brought in two players in Gavin Wilkinson and Vinko Buljubasic and the rest were local.

"Seventh position certainly allows us scope to improve in the coming season."

In addition to a lack of quality pre-season fixtures, Glory also struggled to adapt to the intensity of the earlier matches as they were too easily shrugged off the ball.

Marocchi agreed citing that fixtures against local sides gave the players a false sense of security and "that really hit us in the first few games."

Glory will have no such excuses this season, a fact which Marocchi is no doubt fully aware, but equally he quietly relishes the challenge ahead.

FACT FILE

Coach – Gary Marocchi

Date of Birth: 24/04/55
Marital Status: Married to Debra – 3 children
Occupation: Structural Engineer

With the advent of Perth Glory in late 1995 there was one candidate who stood alone as the obvious choice to become the inaugural coach of Perth. Gary Marocchi had started his playing career as a 16-year-old in Perth, a glittering career which would lead to 14 international caps, including two as captain, and over 150 National League games with Adelaide City. Gary returned to Perth in the mid-1980's to finish his playing career, and immediately turned his hand to coaching at a junior level. Not surprisingly, Gary found immediate success and quickly established himself as one of Perth's leading coaches including success with the WA State Team, and more recently the Perth Kangaroos.

Playing History at Senior Level

W.A.	Perth Azzurri	1971 – 1976, 1983,1984
	Inglewood Kiev	1985
	Perth Azzurri	1986, 1987
N.S.L.	Adelaide City	1977 – 1982

Represented WA over 20 times at senior level 8
Represented SA three times at senior level 7
Represented Australia at u/23 level, 1975
Represented Australia at senior level, 1975 – 1978
Captained Australia, 1978

Coaching History at Senior Level

W.A.	Perth Italia	1991 – 1993
	Perth Kangaroos	1994
	Perth S.C.	1995
	State Team	1991 - 1993

Coaching Achievements

League Champions with Perth Italia, 1991 – 1993
League Champions with the Perth Kangaroos, 1994
WA Quit Coach of the Year, 1991 – 1993
Victories against Werder Bremen (Germany) and Iraklis (Greece) with State Team
Third with WA State Team in Marah Halim Cup (Indonesia), 1991

CAPTAIN COURAGEOUS

Gareth Naven

The Glory dropped from third to seventh on the league ladder as it stumbled to successive defeats at home against Newcastle Breakers (2-0), away against bottom side Canberra Cosmos (4-1) and at home to Collingwood Warriors (2-0). The odds against the Perth team winning the crown in its first season also plummeted, from 16-1 to 150-1.

As skipper of the side, Naven took the dramatic slump harder than most.

"Having that low period cost us a top six spot," he said. "I think our lack of experience and lack of depth told against us in that spell.

"It was so frustrating, for, after taking a few games to adjust to the pace and demands of the NSL, we had strung together some great results. Then we hit this brick wall.

"Physically, we were fine. I think it was just a mental thing, and we lost our confidence. We'll be better able to deal with it if it happens this season. The only way to combat something like that is to remain positive and keep doing the good things that were successful before. Hopefully, everything should eventually slot into place."

Naven said being the Glory's first captain was the biggest buzz of a soccer career that has seen him have a spell with Adelaide City and taste much success with Perth Italia and the Perth Kangaroos.

"The development of the team after the initial loss to UTS Olympic and the wonderful reaction of the home fans were also highlights of a great season," he said.

"We never really felt we weren't good enough. Our pre-season preparation did

By Mel Moffat - of The West Australian

GARETH Naven can never be accused of being a quitter.

You've only got to watch the Perth Glory captain playing soccer to know you are going to get 100% every time he runs onto a pitch.

He is hyperactive on the field. His midfield engine never stops ticking over. If there was a human dynamo, Naven is surely it. And his passion for the game is unquestionable.

That's why the 28-year-old reacted so strongly to the mid-season dip that threatened to sabotage the Glory's historic first season in the National Soccer League.

WELCOME BREAK...Craig Naven (left), Tom Maras and Gareth Naven take a breather during pre-season training.

...gear us up for NSL level. Our minds were still in State league mode. We quickly found out that we couldn't take anything for granted, the way we might have done in the local league."

He said that coach Gary Marocchi and his assistant Micky Brennan increased the tempo at training in order to help the players adjust.

"Training is always hard under Gary – and that's the way it should be – and both himself and Mickey pushed and probed us and this made a big difference," he said.

"I didn't think we were out of our league. I wasn't overawed by it. The pace was higher, of course, but the good thing about the NSL is that the opposition allows you to play. It's a clean league. The teams are there to play football.

"I think overall we weren't shown up. We proved on our day that we could hold our own with the best."

He said the Glory had many players to be proud of in that first season, including striker Vas Kalogeracos, who scored the goal which was rated the best of the season by SBS.

"Vas was quite exciting at times," he said. "OK, he was hot and cold, but when he did burn he really did. A great crowd-pleaser.

"I thought the hard work of Paul Reid in midfield and Paul Strudwick didn't really get the recognition it deserved. They both had excellent seasons.

"Being a bit short of defenders, I didn't think we did too badly in that area and my brother Craig and Gavin Wilkinson and Vince Bulijubasic eventually combined very well."

GARETH'S PREDICTION: "We just want to do better than last year. I think we can. The team will be smarter this time and the acquisition of Ernie Tapai will bring a bit more confidence to other players. I think he'll be the catalyst for other players to do better.

"Tactically our opponents will be a bit tighter on us for they know how we play. We'll have to combat that and do our best to overcome it. There will be high public expectation, which is only right."

FUTURE: "Very good. The coaching staff is making long term development plans – and there are a lot of good young-sters coming through the local league."

GLORY AHEAD...Gareth Naven heads the ball away from David Zdrillic of Sydney United while Dale Wingell looks on.

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PLAYER OF THE YEAR

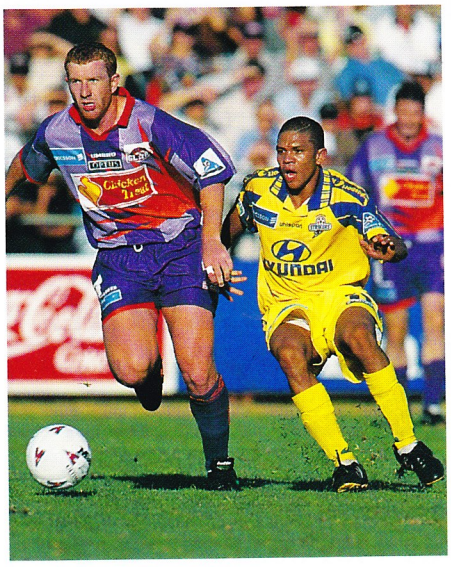
Gavin Wilkinson

HE'S THE CHAMP...Gavin Wilkinson, winner of the inaugural Most Glorious Player award for 1996/1997 is presented with his trophy by Frank Roach, BankWest Area Manager, CBD.

By Mel Moffat - of The West Australian

Gavin Wilkinson is made of stern stuff. Want some evidence? Well, there is none better than his survival of a nightmare opening to Perth Glory's historic first season.

It would have spelt the finish of weaker individuals and left them trembling at the knees.



IN CONTROL...Gavin clears his lines.

The big New Zealand international received a roasting from an opponent – and the bird from some sections of the crowd – as the Glory went down 4-1 to UTS Olympic in its first taste of National Soccer League action at Perth Oval on October 13, 1996.

"It was a bad, shocking, awful start," conceded Wilkinson.

But the red-haired Kiwi bravely put the experience behind him, gritted his teeth in determination, stepped up his training schedule – and went on to amaze the knockers and become a crowd favourite.

In fact, the quality of his stubborn defending, and occasional upfield forays, was a major contributing factor to the Glory's subsequent sensational efforts and earned him a unique double accolade:

The Most Glorious Player award, as voted by a panel of judges selected by coach Gary Marocchi and the Bankwest Supporters Player of the Year trophy.

Wilkinson wasn't there in person to accept the rewards at the Glory Ball, held at the Hyatt Regency on May 30. He was thousands of kilometres away on World Cup duty with the New Zealand team.

But his flickering image appeared on a giant screen, receiving the impressive awards and thanking all concerned. It had been video taped 10 days earlier.

"I was aware well before the taping that I had won the Supporters Award, but I was only told minutes before the video was turned on that I had won the other one as well," he recalled. "It really took me by surprise."

The trophies were a fitting tribute to his dedication and determination.

Wilkinson had been lauded as a player with a big future after turning out for Auckland side Waitakere for three years and captaining the New Zealand international teams at under-19 and under-23 level, making his debut for the senior All Whites when he was 21.

The Glory's expectations were high. But the right wing-back role which he was asked to fill on that stressful day in October was totally foreign to him He wasn't equipped to be an overlapping flank player. He had previously played as a right back, a right midfielder or a central defender.

The job which Gary Marocchi had in mind for him just wasn't his cup of tea – and he suffered the consequences. He was dropped to the substitutes bench for the next three games – away to West Adelaide and Newcastle Breakers and home to Canberra Cosmos.

During that period, he made only one [illegible] appearance, coming on in the 83rd minute to replace Dale Wingell when the 6-0 win over Canberra had already been tied up.

The time on the bench was a soul searching experience for the 23-year-old, who must have felt that his whole world had crashed around him.

But a call from Marocchi to "Shape up, or ship out" stirred his Kiwi pride. He shaped up.

Wilkinson dramatically increased his work load. He hit the training track before his teammates in every session – and stayed half an hour longer. He worked out on his own in the gym and he toiled to improve his sharpness, his quick turning and overall agility.

He was now ready for the big comeback.

His chance came in the away game against Collingwood Warriors on November 10 – and he grabbed it with gleeful relish. He played in his favourite central defensive position and turned in a man-of-the-match effort in the battling 0-0 draw.

He came into the side in place of the suspended Vladimir Beretovac and was given the job of subduing Warrior's midfielder Ernie Tapai, who is, ironically, now a teammate of Wilkinson's at the Glory. Tapai hardly got a kick that day.

"We're all delighted for Gavin," Marocchi was quoted as saying after the match. "He's worked very hard in the past few weeks."

The six foot tall defender never looked back. He went from strength to strength, made the central defender's position his own and even went on to score three goals to finish as the Glory's fourth top scorer.

LAST LINE OF DEFENCE...Gavin Wilkinson at full stretch.

He made what he considered were two particularly memorable contributions – setting up Scott Miller to score a late winning goal in a thriller against Melbourne Knights just after Christmas and turning in another man-of-the match display against minor premiers Sydney United in mid-March.

"The Sydney United game was a do or die one for us," he recalled.

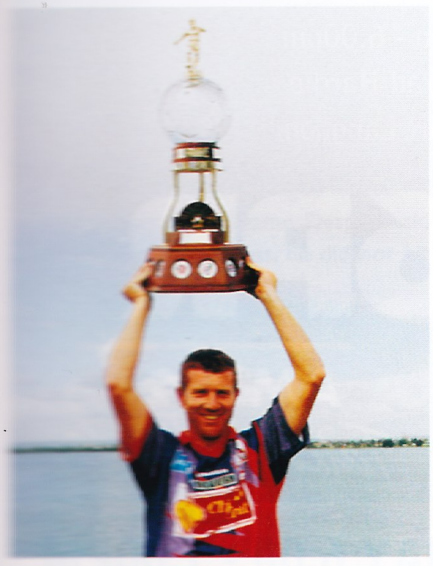
"We needed to win to stay in the top six and we responded with a great team effort to win 3-1.

"I was happy with my effort for I marked Ante Milicic, who had been getting glowing press about his goalscoring achievements. He didn't score against us. In fact, I like to think I kept him really quiet.

The turnaround in form also enabled him to cement his position in the New Zealand team after being dropped at one stage. He has now won 10 senior caps and was singled out by the New Zealand media as the country's best player in the World Cup qualifying games in May and June.

Wilkinson rated West Adelaide striker Jim Tsekenis as the most difficult opponent last season. "He was on fire at the start of the year," he said.

GAVIN'S PREDICTION: "After going so close to the top six last season, there will be a lot of pressure on us to make the finals for the 97-98 season. I'm confident that we can do it. We're more street-wise and we'll be a better side this time."



PRIDE OF PLACE...Gavin holds aloft the Player of the Year trophy.

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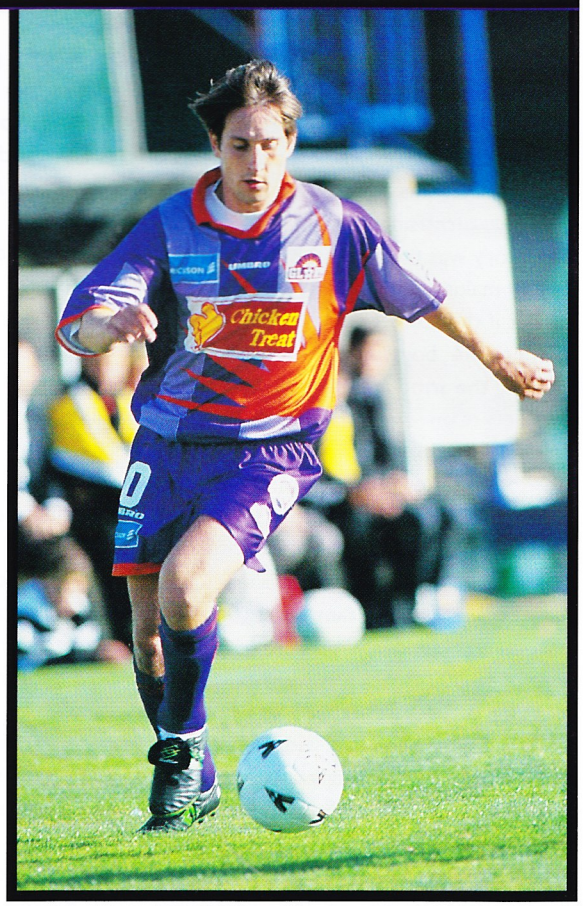
bobby despotovski



By Jonathan Cook - of The West Australian

BOBBY Despotovski's goal-scoring exploits began for Perth Glory late in October when he bagged two in the team's first win of the season away to Newcastle Breakers.

The talent of the Glory No. 10 was underlined six months later when he rammed home the last two of his 14-goal haul in front of 3000 fans away to Wollongong.

And that's how most of the strikers goals came - in front of relatively small crowds, thousands of kilometres from the roaring Perth Oval.

But Despotovski, like so many of the Glory players, is adamant the reception the fans gave the team helped him enormously through a difficult yet spectacular season.

"Sometimes," he says "even if you are feeling a little bit tired, in the last 10 minutes, they just lift you up.

"You forget about everything just to get the result for them and really the whole year was about the supporters."

Despotovski's most memorable match of the 1996/97 was against Sydney United at Perth Oval.

Glory was just emerging from a devastating string of results which saw it lose to Newcastle, Canberra and Collingwood before eking out a draw away to Gippsland.

The monstrous crowds of more than 20,000 had dwindled but still 11,000 spectators turned up at Perth Oval to watch Glory take on the league leader.

Remarkably, in the game Despotovski regards as the team's best, he did not hit the target.

But his determination and creativity had the United defence at sea and his overall contribution was first class.

Despotovski's partner in goal-scoring crime, Vas Kalogeracos, scored two of the goals and Dale Wingell's well-directed header found the net to give Glory a 3-1 win.

On the day every one of the Glory players got it right and United, who until that point appeared destined for the NSL championship, returned to New South Wales with a changed perception of soccer in the West.

The creativity and mobility of Glory's strikeforce was a constant threat to United and the hard work off the ball paid off.

"Everybody wanted to knock them down from first spot," Bobby says.

"When we beat them we didn't knock them off the top but we beat them well."

"We got them back for the 4-2 result in Sydney."

While the Glory juggernaut was making it's way back into finals contention, Despotovski's goal-scoring ability was beginning to prick the attention of the national team selectors.

His knack of finding the net had fans speculating on the possibility of the Socceroo's new boss, Terry Venables, including him in the squad for a series of matches in January.

Disappointingly a call-up never came, but a couple of months later when Venables held his Superstars of Soccer series, Glory's top marksman was included.

The superstars series was little more than a gesture from Venables whose team, it seemed, had already picked itself.

Overseas-based players had experienced soccer at a high level and very few people expected the NSL to provide more than one or two players.

"I didn't think that I couldn't make the team," Despotovski explains. "Everybody can make it."

"But I knew Terry Venables saw what he was getting from Australian National League players in the tournament a couple of months before."

Nonetheless, being involved in the Superstars series was a great experience.

"It was a good experience just to be there and training with the boys. You give 100 % and that's all that you can do."

In season 1996/97 Bobby Despotovski gave just that.

For Despotovski, not making the Socceroo squad was disappointing but that was nothing compared to the disappointment felt when Glory missed out on the play-off finals. But it was the manner of the failure that hurt so much.

PREDICTION - If I can score another 14 goals this season it would be great but I am not going to set any targets. Whatever goals I score I will be happy

GLORY'S KNIGHT

vinko buljubasic

By Jonathan Cook - of The West Australian

PERTH Glory's final game of the 1996-97 National Soccer League season was going to be hell.

After surprising the pundits at every turn Glory was ready to step into NSL history by making the finals in its first season.

But if the story to that point had been uplifting, the boys from the West were polishing the armour and preparing for war.

The team was facing a trip to Melbourne to play the mighty Knights who had won the previous two grand finals and whose fans demanded another bite at the championship cherry.

Glory, which had been applauded by so many of the opposing fans throughout the season, was suddenly preparing for the jeers of 10,000 fanatics at Knights Park.

Where Glory's failed attempts to score had once been met with sympathetic applause, against the Knights, with so much at stake, they could expect roars of satisfaction.

But for Perth Glory's Vinko Buljubasic things were going to be somewhat different. He was going home.

Buljubasic had been nurtured at the Knights throughout his career and only after the sweet taste of grand final success did he contemplate leaving the club.

Until 1996 the Knights had been his team, earning him three grand final appearances including two memorable victories, against Adelaide City and Marconi.

But after reaching the summit of Australian soccer Buljubasic needed a greater challenge to keep his soccer career moving.

Enter Perth Glory.

"They explained to me their future plans and it looked pretty good," Buljubasic says of his early contact with the club.

"You could say it was a risk moving to Perth, you don't know what to expect... luckily it all worked out for me and the club."

As it happened, Buljubasic made the transition to life in Perth relatively easily and he soon settled into his new lifestyle.

On the pitch the initiation was not so kind.

The opening day of the season had the alarm bells ringing. Almost 10,000 supporters watched Sydney Olympic dissect an over exposed, underdeveloped NSL newcomer. Buljubasic and company were pulled and stretched like a cheap pullover and after 90 exhausting minutes the team was left in a shapeless mess on the wrong end of a 4-1 scoreline.

The Glory sweeper knew it would take time for the team to blend and he expected a tough time in the first few games.

"I always said that the more games that we played in the future we would get better and bigger as a club, and that did happen."

By the time Glory's trip to the Melbourne Knights came around, it had overcome the early problems, swept aside the might of Brisbane and Sydney United, and survived a mid-season slump.

Suddenly everything rested on that one Sunday afternoon in April.

"You expect occasional boos and I had been brought up at that club so I probably expected more," Buljubasic explains.

"But I had done everything possible at the Knights and I needed to achieve something somewhere else."

And he knew that the club had been hurt by his decision to leave.

"I can understand that," he laments.

"But in the end I think they respected my decision. They knew it was a career move."

Career move or not the final game of the season was frantic with Glory taking an early lead before being battered into submission by the seasoned Knights campaigners.

The importance of the final game had weighed heavily on the shoulders of the Glory players, most of whom had not played a NSL game until the beginning of that season.

On reflection Buljubasic pushed aside the pain of missing out on a historical victory. There was something else at stake during Glory's inaugural season and that battle had been won.

"It was a very big disappointment for me personally," he says of losing to the Knights. "But the people in WA, I think, are happy with what we achieved this year and that is an achievement in itself."

PREDICTION: "Obviously the teams in the east didn't know what to expect from Perth Glory but now they are familiar with the players, it will be a different ball game this year. We have got a bigger squad this year and I think there is more quality in the side so I don't see why we shouldn't make the six - but I am not going to say we will make it."

MR EXCITEMENT

vas kalogeracos

By Mal Moffat - of The West Australian

There was no more exhilarating a sight in the NSL last summer than Vas Kalogeracos in full flight.

Perth Glory's pocket-sized striker cut many defences down to size and made many defenders look just plain silly as he darted, waltzed, squeezed and banged his way past them on the way to scoring 12 glorious goals for the season.

He was rightly dubbed Mr Excitement by his team-mates, the club's fanatical supporters, SBS television and virtually every lover of electrifying soccer in Australia.

For me, the most indelible image of the Glory's stunning debut season was of Kalogeracos blowing kisses to the crowd and dancing with delight around Perth Oval after bagging the team's only hat-trick for the year in the momentous 4-1 win over South Melbourne on April 12.

His third goal in that trio of super strikes was voted goal of the year by SBS.

And what a smasher it was. The Glory was awarded a free kick about 30 metres out. Captain Gareth Naven rolled the ball square to Kalogeracos, who controlled it, took one quick look up and then sent a dipping bomb of a shot over the outstretched hands of keeper Michael Petkovic.

His second goal was right out of the top drawer as well.

Kalogeracos picked up the ball at the halfway line, stroked it to Paul Strudwick and accelerated into space to accept the return pass. He then cleverly wrong-footed defender Nick Orlic before opening a blistering left foot shot past Petkovic.

The first of the hat-trick underlined the 22-year-old player's remarkable composure. A long throw was flicked on by two players and landed at the feet of Kalogeracos, who coolly rounded Petkovic and poked it in from close range.

The goals were the culmination of an astonishing love affair that Kalogeracos enjoyed with the home supporters, who never lost faith with the forward despite a roller-coaster season that saw his form hit some remarkable highs, and a few depressing lows as well.

Ten of his goals were scored at Perth Oval.

"I just seemed to get inspired by the hometown crowd," he said. "I enjoyed playing in front of my parents and my friends. It just made me feel good."

Kalogeracos, who was on loan to the Glory from Floreat Athena, was a late recruit and didn't make his debut, as a substitute, until the third game of the season against Newcastle.

His first goal arrived three weeks later at home against Gippsland Falcons. With the Glory 3-0 down at the interval, Kalogeracos was brought on in the second half and inspired a fightback with a sensational strike from 20m. The Falcons held on to win 3-2.

Kalogeracos was in from the start the following week, away against league leader Sydney United, and scored once in the 4-2 loss.

His other goals came against the Brisbane Strikers, against the Melbourne Knights, two in the shock 2-1 away win over Marconi, against West Adelaide and two in a memorable 3-1 home win over Sydney United.

Dale Wingell bagged the opening goal in that first game, but Kalogeracos put the crowd of 11,644 into a frenzy with a stunning effort nine minutes later.

Despite being hemmed into a tight corner by big defender Velemir Kupresak and Robert Enes, the pacy striker wriggled free, cheekily flicked the ball over his head and comprehensively drilled it past surprised keeper Zeljko Kalac.

In my book, it was the goal of the year.

With efforts like that, it was little wonder that Kalogeracos went on to win a contract in the English Division One with Stockport County.

There, after netting a couple goals in the Hatters Reserves side, Vas was rewarded with a first eleven appearance in the opening round of the Coca-Cola League Cup. Since then, he has been fighting for a regular first team place, which wasn't easy because he was competing against the County's dynamic twin strikers Brett Angell and Alun Armstrong.

IMPACT MAN

tony carbone

By Mel Moffat - of The West Australian

HIGH-CLASS midfielder Tony Carbone played only eight games for Perth Glory, but his impact in that period was nothing short of sensational.

He played a key role in helping the team dig its way out of a slump and get back on track to deliver a sensational finale to a memorable season.

Carbone joined the club in early March, and made his debut in the home game against Collingwood Warriors.

It turned out to be a dark day for the Glory as the side crashed to a 2-0 defeat, its third successive loss, and chairman Nick Tana stormed into the media area and threatened to sack many of the players unless they got their act together.

But the one shining light amidst the gloom was the performance of Carbone, who won the man of the match award.

The 23-year-old clearly wasn't as fit as he would have liked after only playing a handful of warm-up games with Sorrento in the local premier league. But he handled his plunge into the deep end by delivering a performance of distinct quality. He produced many exciting midfield thrusts, always looked hungry for the ball and battled on manfully when pushed into the back four when he was clearly very tired.

It was an effort which clearly underlined that Carbone, once the whiz-kid of WA soccer, still had the ingredients to be an influential player at a high level.

He had spent six months away from the game, getting his head clear and looking at his options, after receiving a setback when given a free transfer by top English side Nottingham Forest.

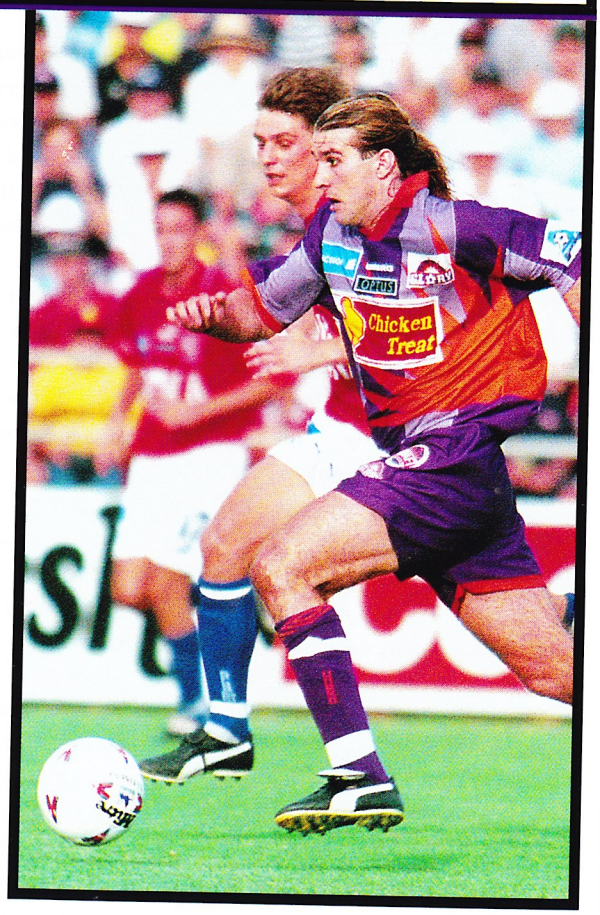
Carbone had rightly thought he was on the path to a career at the top level when he was transferred to Forest, in a welter of publicity, for a then-record fee of just over $200,000 from Perth Italia in 1993.

He had shown immense potential when starring for the Young Socceroos in the 1993 World Youth Championship and the sky appeared to be the limit on what he could achieve.

But breaking into the Forest first team proved to be a hard nut to crack. He was locked in the reserves, along with a lot of other quality players, and just couldn't find the key component that would earn him a prized first-team berth.

So, Carbone's determination to get his career back on track was all the more admirable.

He turned on the style again in his second outing against Gippsland Falcons, before being forced to hobble out of the contest with a hamstring injury. He had played his part by then as Perth achieved a 1-1 draw to begin the turnaround in its season.



Carbone passed a fitness test and turned out the following week in the exciting 3-1 win over Sydney United and he was prominent again the following week in the gutsy 1-1 draw away to Adelaide City.

He had stamped himself as a valuable member of the team by this time, bringing drive and inventiveness to midfield and also showing a hungry willingness to cover in defence as well if required.

He scored only one goal for the Glory and it nearly turned out to be the team's most important strike of the season.

He fired home a scorching shot from just outside the area to give the Glory a 1-0 lead after only 10 minutes of its last home-and-away fixture against the Melbourne Knights at Knights Stadium.

A win or a draw would have been enough to put the Glory into the top six play-offs, but the Knights battled back to equalise just before half-time and swamped the Perth players after the interval to eventually win 3-1.

Like every other player in the side, Carbone was hugely disappointed. It had been a case of so close, yet so far.

But the passion surrounding playing with the Glory had re-kindled Carbone's desire to have another shot at breaking into the big time in England.

He packed his bags within a few months of finishing with the Glory and headed back to the Northern Hemisphere.

"My enthusiasm is back and I'm determined to have another go," he said.

Carbone lined up trials with several clubs and played a few reserve team games for first division side Tranmere Rovers, which liked his style and made the offer of a 12-month contract.

Carbone, however, decided to move on and had a stint at another first division club, Reading.

He impressed Reading manager Terry Bullivant who also wanted to offer a contract but was vetoed by the Reading board of directors and Carbone has rejoined Glory.

MR CONSISTENCY

scott miller

By Jonathan Cook - of The West Australian

Every one of the 14,757 spectators who witnessed the match between Perth Glory and the Melbourne Knights on December 28 will remember Scott Miller's spectacular winner.

Glory had roared to a 2-0 lead, with Paul McVittie and Vas Kalogeracos finding the mark, but a second half lapse allowed the Knights back into the game.

The visitors scored twice to level the score, setting up a nerve jangling finish.

Even the spectators who are normally compelled to rush to their cars five minutes before the end to avoid the jam of cars outside the ground had not moved.

The shed was still buzzing with relentless chanting and Glory was hoping to resurrect the three points it had seemingly had in its grasp earlier, by launching committed attacks on the Knights goal.

Then, with seconds remaining, the winner came.

Gavin Wilkinson steamed forward from his defensive position and when he played the ball back to the waiting Glory number 7, Miller let fly.

His shot, the roar of the crowd and the subsequent celebrations would be seen again and again as the victory over the Knights extended the festive celebrations and propelled the Perth Glory bandwagon into overdrive.

The blow came far too late for the Knights to respond and supporters around the ground were still in rapture when the whistle went to the end of the game.

"The only reason I hit it was about five minutes before Strudders (Paul Strudwick) put me through and I tried to blast the ball and nearly hit the corner flag," Miller said.

"So when the second chance came I thought I'll just try to get it on target."

The former Spearwood player rates it as one of his best moments of the 1996/97 season.

"Personally the goal was special but I think the games we won against Sydney United and Adelaide City were more of a highlight because we played so well. The second half against the Melbourne Knights, we weren't at our best."

Although the goal rescued the points for Glory it was Miller's consistency that etched his name into the history books.

The hard-working left back was the only player to have played in all of the Glory's 26 games.

As comfortable at the back, snuffing out the thrust of an opposing winger, as he was breaking forward, dancing around defenders and setting up goal scoring opportunities, Miller was a vital component of Marocchi's plan.

His permanency in the team was matched, game for game, by midfielder Paul McVittie. McVittie also looked to be heading for an unblemished season until he was controversially sent off against Wollongong with only two games to go.

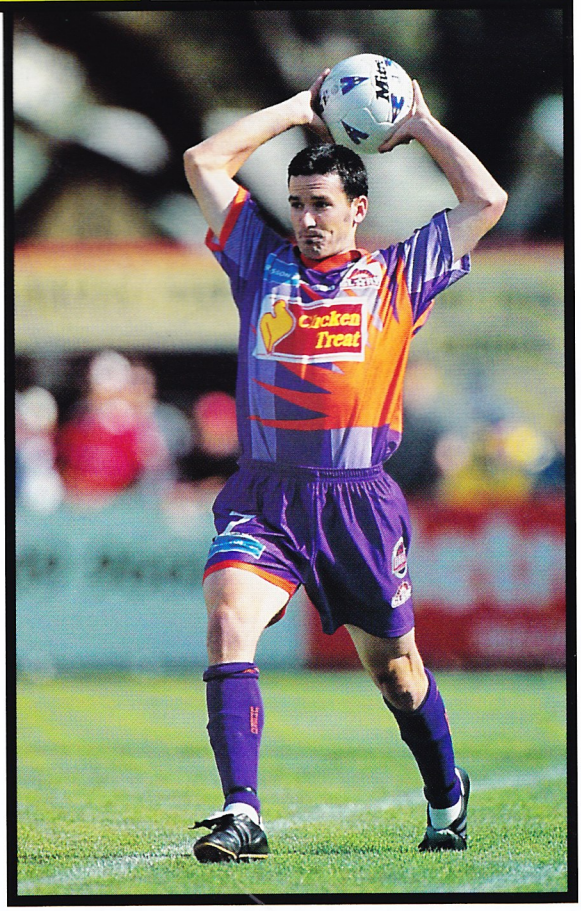
The professional set-up Glory established in its first season helped Miller to keep his thoughts to himself.

"I was pretty lucky with the refs, I kind of shut my mouth a bit," Miller said.

"I got a yellow card early in the season and I didn't want to miss any of the games, especially at home because of the crowds, so I didn't say to much."

The pain of every defeat and the euphoria of every win is buried in Miller's head. He reluctantly recalls the losses to Newcastle, Canberra and Collingwood and points to that period as the lowest of Glory's inaugural season.

"I don't know if it was a sub-conscious thing, but we had played so well before that we stopped doing the hard stuff."



"Without doing the hard work, the 50-50 tackles and the rest of it, we dropped off a bit and once we had relaxed it took us a few games to get it back again."

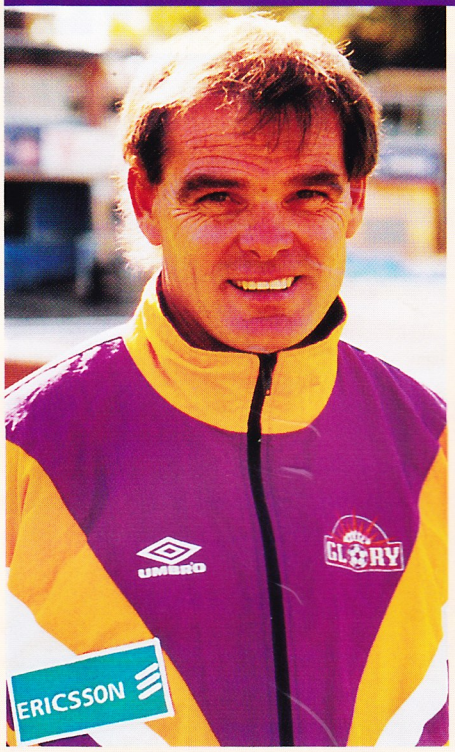
The experience of last season should put Glory in with a good chance of making further improvement. Miller expects the opposition to come out even harder this year but Glory will be prepared.

"At the end of last season instead of being happy with coming seventh we were disappointed. We thought we were good enough to be in the finals."

In season 1997/98 Scott Miller will settle for nothing less.

PREDICTION: "They always say the second year is the hardest. Even at this early stage all we are talking about is making the six. We've got a hard run at the start and if we can get over the first three games, hopefully we can keep it going."

THE GOALIES



GOALIES COACH...Willie McNally assesses his charges from last season.

I had the pleasure of coaching the Glory keepers during the history making first season in the National Soccer League.

After spending several years playing for Adelaide City in the NSL during the 80's, I knew first hand how demanding it was physically and mentally facing the top strikers in the country each week.

I really enjoyed the season in full and felt all three keepers played their part in making the season a success on and off the park.

The lads are all from south of the river, similar in some ways but different in personality.

Tommy Maras waited a long time to play NSL and was put under tremendous pressure early on in the season. He lost his confidence and his place, but remained loyal and dedicated and is determined to win back the No. 1 spot next season.

Tommy is a very likeable bloke who is popular with all the Glory players and wives. He trains hard, plays hard and enjoys a beer and a laugh off the park.

He is a keen follower of the West Coast Eagles and is good mates with star ruck-man Ryan Turnbull.

Vince Matassa is the quiet achiever. He waited patiently for his opportunity last season and played well when he got his chance.

He also did a top job off the park in his marketing role with the Glory. Vince has surprised many people by taking a year off soccer to travel.

IN SAFE HANDS...Tom Maras at full stretch during a training session.

RISING HIGH...Vince Matassa punches the ball clear.

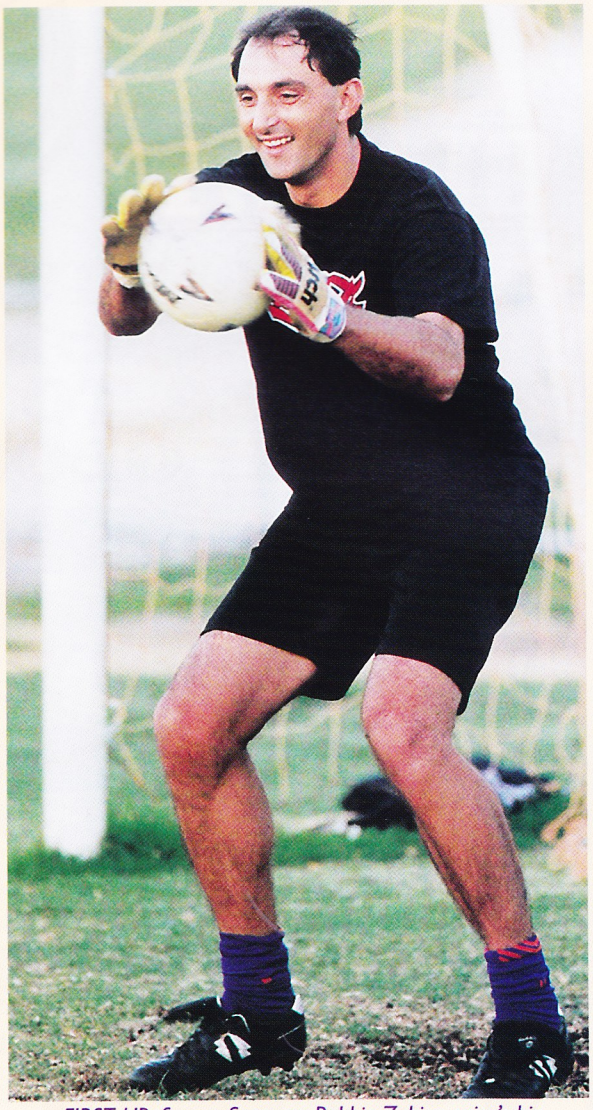
Zabica is naturally talented and is not only a star goalkeeper [illegible] top cricketer and golfer.

He has a tremendous technique and timing and certainly brought [illegible] and confidence into the side at the end of last season.

Like most gifted sportsmen he is not the hardest or keenest trainer [illegible] to play the game.

He likes a beer with the boys after the match and has a good sense of [illegible]

[illegible] volumes for Big Robbie that he has just signed professional terms [illegible] English Division One side Bradford City at the tender age of 33.



FIRST UP...former Socceroo Robbie Zabica enjoy's his introduction to training at Perth Oval.

[illegible] Robbie Zabica appeals to the crowd.

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PLAYING SQUAD 1996/97

Photography by Richard Kreider

Rear L-R: Vinko Buljubasic, Peter Vukmirovic, Vince Matassa, Robert Zabica, Tom Maras, Doug Ithier, Gavin Wilkinson

Centre: Barry Tate (Physio), Vas Kalogeracos, Anthony Carbone, Vladimir Beretovac, Paul Strudwick, Marc Wingell, Slobodan Despotovski, Trevor Russell (Gear Steward)

Front: Paul McVittie, Dale Wingell, Willie McNally (Goalkeeper Coach), Gareth Naven (Captain), Gary Marocchi (Coach), Craig Naven, Micky Brennan (Asst. Coach), Alan MacKenzie, Scott Miller

Squad No.	Name	DOB	Position	Games	Goals
	Tom MARAS	13-09-67	Goalkeeper	8 (1)	0
	Vladimir BERETOVAC	29-08-73	Defence	6 (8)	0
	Craig NAVEN	03-03-69	Defence	25 (0)	0
	Gavin WILKINSON	05-11-73	Defence	21 (3)	3
	Vinko BULJUBASIC	09-07-73	Defence	25 (0)	0
	Gareth NAVEN	03-03-69	Midfield	25 (0)	1
	Scott MILLER	18-05-72	Midfield	26 (0)	2
	Paul McVITTIE	01-09-65	Midfield	25 (0)	2
	Paul STRUDWICK	06-12-67	Forward	21 (2)	7
	Slobby DESPOTOVSKI	14-07-71	Forward	23 (0)	14
	Alan MacKENZIE	08-08-66	Forward	3 (9)	2
12	Doug ITHIER	20-07-74	Defence	9 (3)	0
13	Vas KALOGERACOS	21-03-75	Forward	19 (3)	12
14	Dale WINGELL	08-06-75	Midfield	22 (3)	2
15	Peter VUKMIROVIC	23-04-68	Defence	1 (6)	0
18	Anthony CARBONE	13-10-74	Midfield	8 (0)	1
19	Marc WINGELL	03-10-73	Defence	0 (2)	0
20	Vince MATASSA	21-09-73	Goalkeeper	11 (0)	0
21	Robert ZABICA	09-04-64	Goalkeeper	7 (0)	0

Games in brackets are substitute appearances

Own Goals 2

Season Total 48

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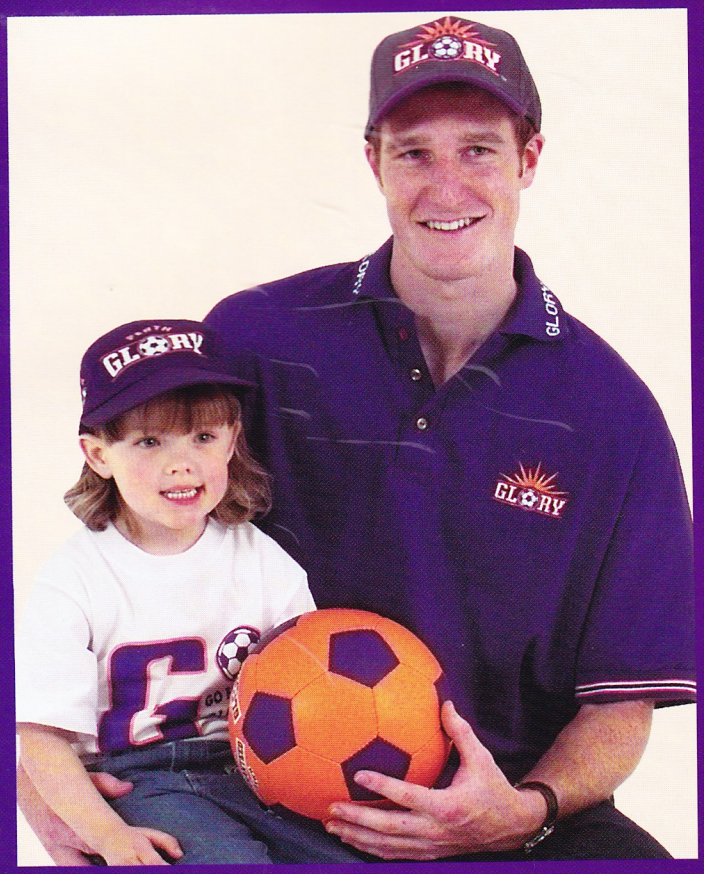

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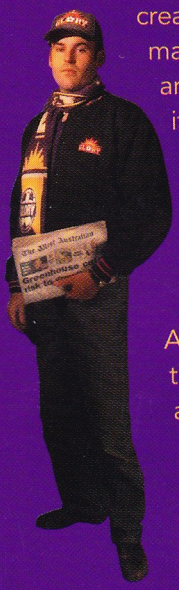

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GOALKEEPERS

players season 1996/97

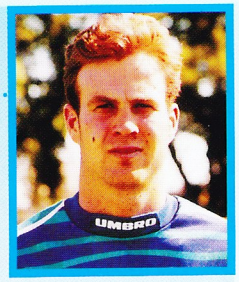
TOMMY MARAS

BIRTHPLACE:	Perth
D.O.B.:	13/09/67
HEIGHT:	188cm
WEIGHT:	90kg
GLORY APPEARANCES:	9/0
TOTAL APPEARANCES:	9/0
MARITAL STATUS:	Single
OCCUPATION:	Carpenter
PREVIOUS CLUBS:	Kuala Lumpur FC, Happy Valley
REP HONOURS:	WA State Team
LIKES:	Perth Nightlife, golf
DISLIKES:	Rude people
AMBITION:	To win a NSL Championship

ROBERT ZABICA

BIRTHPLACE:	Perth
D.O.B.:	09/04/64
HEIGHT:	195 cm
WEIGHT:	96 kg
GLORY APPEARANCES:	7/0
TOTAL APPEARANCES:	7/0
MARITAL STATUS:	Married to Senga
OCCUPATION:	Account Executive (sales)
PREVIOUS CLUBS:	Spearwood, Stirling, Adelaide City
REP HONOURS:	Socceroos
LIKES:	BBQ's
DISLIKES:	Unknown
AMBITION:	To not have a handicap in golf

VINCE MATASSA



BIRTHPLACE:	Perth
D.O.B.:	21/09/73
HEIGHT:	188cm
WEIGHT:	88kg
GLORY APPEARANCES:	11/0
TOTAL APPEARANCES:	11/0
MARITAL STATUS:	Single
OCCUPATION:	Marketing Services Officer
PREVIOUS CLUBS:	Morwell, Perth SC, Perth Kangaroos
REP HONOURS:	National U-20
LIKES:	Golf, Italian Food, time with family
DISLIKES:	Bureaucracy, pre-season training
AMBITION:	To play for the Fremantle Dockers

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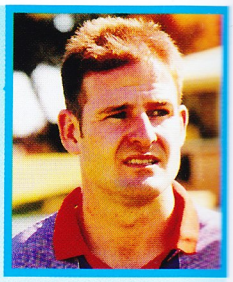
DEFENDERS

players season 1996/97

VLADIMIR BERETOVAC

BIRTHPLACE:	Perth
D.O.B.:	29/08/73
HEIGHT:	175cm
WEIGHT:	70kg
GLORY APPEARANCES:	14/0
TOTAL APPEARANCES:	14/0
MARITAL STATUS:	Single
OCCUPATION:	PE Teacher
PREVIOUS CLUBS:	Western Knights, Perth Kangaroos, Croatia (NK. Samobor NK. Belisce), Fremantle City
REP HONOURS:	WA State Team
LIKES:	Fishing
DISLIKES:	-
AMBITION:	To play professionally overseas

CRAIG NAVEN



BIRTHPLACE:	England
D.O.B.:	3/03/69
HEIGHT:	175cm
WEIGHT:	74kg
GLORY APPEARANCES:	25/0
TOTAL APPEARANCES:	25/0
MARITAL STATUS:	Married to Tania
OCCUPATION:	Internal Sales – Denso Australia
PREVIOUS CLUBS:	Perth Kangaroos, Sarawak (Singapore)
REP HONOURS:	WA State Team, Australia U/16
LIKES:	Frank Sinatra music
DISLIKES:	-
AMBITION:	To see Perth Glory succeed in the Ericsson Cup

VINKO BULJUBASIC

BIRTHPLACE:	Melbourne
D.O.B.:	9/07/73
HEIGHT:	182cm
WEIGHT:	73kg
GLORY APPEARANCES:	25/0
TOTAL APPEARANCES:	113/3
MARITAL STATUS:	Girlfriend Sally
OCCUPATION:	Professional Soccer Player
PREVIOUS CLUBS:	Melbourne Knights
REP HONOURS:	Australian Olympic Team
LIKES:	Perth Glory supporters
DISLIKES:	Losing
AMBITION:	To represent Australia

PETER VUKMIROVIC

BIRTHPLACE:	Sydney
D.O.B.:	23/04/68
HEIGHT:	196cm
WEIGHT:	97kg
GLORY APPEARANCES:	7/0
TOTAL APPEARANCES:	7/0
MARITAL STATUS:	Single
OCCUPATION:	Salesman Modern Roof Restoration
PREVIOUS CLUBS:	Bonnyrigg White Eagles (NSW)
REP HONOURS:	NSW State Team
LIKES:	Meeting new people
DISLIKES:	Ignorant people
AMBITION:	To play for Australia

DOUG ITHIER

BIRTHPLACE:	Perth
D.O.B.:	20/07/74
HEIGHT:	184cm
WEIGHT:	80kg
GLORY APPEARANCES:	12/0
TOTAL APPEARANCES:	12/0
MARITAL STATUS:	Married to Tracy
OCCUPATION:	Storeman
PREVIOUS CLUBS:	Floreat, Bunbury United
REP HONOURS:	WA State Team
LIKES:	Music, working out, golf
DISLIKES:	Slow drivers
AMBITION:	To win an Ericsson Cup Medal

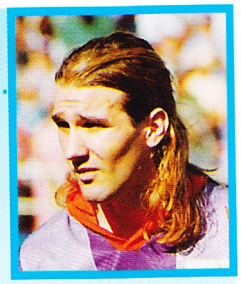
GAVIN WILKINSON

BIRTHPLACE:	Auckland, NZ
D.O.B.:	5/11/73
HEIGHT:	175cm
WEIGHT:	74kg
GLORY APPEARANCES:	24/3
TOTAL APPEARANCES:	24/3
MARITAL STATUS:	Girlfriend Heather
OCCUPATION:	Development Officer
PREVIOUS CLUBS:	Waitakere
REP HONOURS:	New Zealand Senior Team, U/23
LIKES:	Squash, Food, Golf
DISLIKES:	-
AMBITION:	To play professionally overseas

MIDFIELDERS

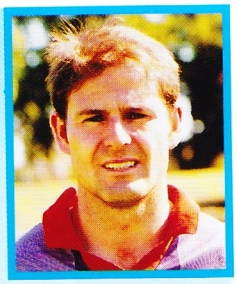
players season 1996/97

ANTHONY CARBONE



BIRTHPLACE:	Australia
D.O.B.:	13/10/74
HEIGHT:	178cm
WEIGHT:	77kg
GLORY APPEARANCES:	8/0
TOTAL APPEARANCES:	8/0
MARITAL STATUS:	Single
OCCUPATION:	Student
PREVIOUS CLUBS:	Perth Italia, S. Mento, Nottm Forest
REP HONOURS:	U/17, U/20, U/23 (Aust.)
LIKES:	Music
DISLIKES:	-
AMBITION:	To win a title with Perth Glory

GARETH NAVEN



BIRTHPLACE:	England
D.O.B.:	3/03/69
HEIGHT:	175cm
WEIGHT:	78kg
GLORY APPEARANCES:	25/0
TOTAL APPEARANCES:	25/0
MARITAL STATUS:	Married to Natalie
OCCUPATION:	Cash Converters Store Manager
PREVIOUS CLUBS:	Perth Kangaroos, Adelaide, Perth S.C.
REP HONOURS:	WA State Team, AIS
LIKES:	Food, Movies, Watching Sport
DISLIKES:	Olives, Brussels Sprouts
AMBITION:	For Perth Glory to be successful

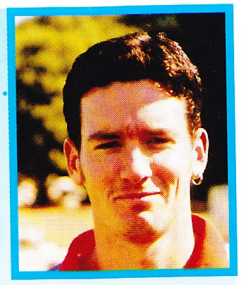
PAUL McVITTIE

BIRTHPLACE:	Newcastle, UK
D.O.B.:	1/09/65
HEIGHT:	180cm
WEIGHT:	75kg
GLORY APPEARANCES:	25/0
TOTAL APPEARANCES:	25/0
MARITAL STATUS:	Single
OCCUPATION:	Sales Representative
PREVIOUS CLUBS:	Perth Kangaroos, Bayswater City
REP HONOURS:	WA State Team
LIKES:	Squash, eating, travelling
DISLIKES:	Smoking, slackers
AMBITION:	To play at the highest level possible

DALE WINGELL

BIRTHPLACE:	London
D.O.B.:	8/06/75
HEIGHT:	182cm
WEIGHT:	72kg
GLORY APPEARANCES:	22/3
TOTAL APPEARANCES:	22/3
MARITAL STATUS:	Single
OCCUPATION:	Professional Soccer Player
PREVIOUS CLUBS:	Perth Kangaroos, Perth SC
REP HONOURS:	WA State Team
LIKES:	Sports, Movies
DISLIKES:	-
AMBITION:	To be successful in everything

SCOTT MILLER



BIRTHPLACE:	Perth
D.O.B.:	18/05/72
HEIGHT:	178cm
WEIGHT:	72kg
GLORY APPEARANCES:	26/0
TOTAL APPEARANCES:	26/0
MARITAL STATUS:	Girlfriend Georgina
OCCUPATION:	Professional Soccer Player
PREVIOUS CLUBS:	Morwell Falcons, Perth Kangaroos
REP HONOURS:	WA State Team
LIKES:	Golf, Super Nintendo
DISLIKES:	Traffic Jams
AMBITION:	To keep enjoying soccer

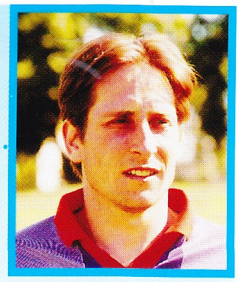
MARC WINGELL

BIRTHPLACE:	London
D.O.B.:	03/10/73
HEIGHT:	182cm
WEIGHT:	83kg
GLORY APPEARANCES:	0/2
TOTAL APPEARANCES:	0/2
MARITAL STATUS:	Single
OCCUPATION:	Soccer Player
PREVIOUS CLUBS:	Floreat Athena, Perth SC
REP HONOURS:	WA Jnrs, WA Snrs, Aust. U/20 Yth World Cup
LIKES:	Golf, R&B Music, Movies
DISLIKES:	-
AMBITION:	To regain position in the National Team

FORWARDS

players season 1996/97

BOBBY DESPOTOVSKI



BIRTHPLACE:	Perth
D.O.B.:	14/07/71
HEIGHT:	180cm
WEIGHT:	74kg
GLORY APPEARANCES:	23/14
TOTAL APPEARANCES:	43/24
MARITAL STATUS:	Married to Lidia
OCCUPATION:	Soccer Player, Cobbler
PREVIOUS CLUBS:	Heidelberg United, Morwell Falcons
REP HONOURS:	WA State Team, Aust. National Team
LIKES:	Basketball
DISLIKES:	Arrogant people
AMBITION:	To play professionally in Europe

PAUL STRUDWICK

BIRTHPLACE:	Southend, UK
D.O.B.:	6/12/67
HEIGHT:	180cm
WEIGHT:	77kg
GLORY APPEARANCES:	23/7
TOTAL APPEARANCES:	23/7
MARITAL STATUS:	Married to Nicola
OCCUPATION:	Installer
PREVIOUS CLUBS:	Perth Kangaroos, Perth S.C.
REP HONOURS:	WA State Team
LIKES:	Golf, any sport
DISLIKES:	Smoking
AMBITION:	Win the Ericsson Cup with Perth Glory

VAS KALOGERACOS

BIRTHPLACE:	Australia
D.O.B.:	21/03/75
HEIGHT:	166cm
WEIGHT:	75kg
GLORY APPEARANCES:	22/12
TOTAL APPEARANCES:	22/12
MARITAL STATUS:	
OCCUPATION:	Soccer Player
PREVIOUS CLUBS:	Kuala Lumpur, Birmingham City
REP HONOURS:	WA Underage Teams, Australia U/17 and U/21, Sydney Olympic
LIKES:	
DISLIKES:	-
AMBITION:	

ALAN MacKENZIE

BIRTHPLACE:	Scotland
D.O.B.:	08/08/66
HEIGHT:	174cm
WEIGHT:	80kg
GLORY APPEARANCES:	12/2
TOTAL APPEARANCES:	12/2
MARITAL STATUS:	Married
OCCUPATION:	Soccer Player
PREVIOUS CLUBS:	Bayswater Panthers
REP HONOURS:	
LIKES:	Golf
DISLIKES:	-
AMBITION:	To win more medals

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ERICSSON CUP Season 1996/97

Perth Glory Matches

Key: og = Own Goal
Att: = Attendance
HT = Half-time
(PG-7th) = League position of Glory
Sports West Media
National Glory

Round 1, Sunday 13th October 1996, Perth Oval

Perth Glory	**1**	**UTS Olympic**	**4**
A.MacKenzie 89		K.Trajanovski 22, 65 N.Tome 63 og (D.Ithier) 72	
HT 0-1		Att 9,639	(PG-12th)

Perth Glory
T.Maras, D.Ithier, C.Naven, G.Wilkinson (D.Wingell 67), V.Buljubasic, G.Naven, P.McVittie, P.Strudwick (V.Beretovac 70), S.Despotovski, A.MacKenzie, S.Miller.
Subs not used: V.Matassa
Yellow Cards: G.Naven 54
UTS Olympic
George Bouhoutsos, Dave Barrett, Adam Ciantar, Scott Baillie, Peter Tsekenis, Norm Tome (George Sorras 64), Alistair Edwards (Elias Augerinos 84), Walter Ardone, Kris Trajanovski, Derek Poimer (Nick Meredith 57), Milan Blagojevic.
Yellow Cards: A.Ciantar 5, W.Ardone 13, G.Bouhoutsos 58
Referee: Eddie Lennie

To rapturous applause the Perth Glory took to the field for their inaugural National Soccer League match, however from the kick-off it quickly became apparent that it was not going to be a dream debut.
Only a late goal from Alan MacKenzie gave the supporters reason to smile. Glory could well point to a missed penalty and several efforts hitting the frame of the goal, but wiser heads pointed to the need to acquire experience at this level before progressing.

Round 2, Sunday 20th October 1996, Hindmarsh Stadium

West Adelaide	**3**	**Perth Glory**	**1**
og (G.Naven 40) J.Tsekinis 48, 72		P.Strudwick 89	
HT 1-0		Att: 3,537	(PG-14th)

West Adelaide
Mike Harkness, Hamilton Thorp, Jamie Perin, Robert Slager, Robert Hooker, Richie Alagich, Alex Castro, Pablo Cardozo, Branko Milosevic (Corey Artone 29), Nathan Day, Jim Tsekinis.
Subs not used Con Kokkinoplitis, John Cutillo
Yellow Cards: Nil
Perth Glory
T.Maras, V.Beretovac, C.Naven, V.Buljubasic, G.Naven, S.Miller, P.McVittie (G.Wilkinson 76), S.Despotovski, A.MacKenzie (P.Strudwick 31), D.Ithier, D.Wingell.
Subs not used: V.Matassa
Yellow Cards: Nil
Referee: Eugene Brazzale

The National Soccer League learning curve is indeed a steep one as Perth Glory once again discovered to their cost. Paul Strudwick scored for Glory in the final minute, but it served no bearing on the final outcome as West Adelaide controlled the game straight from the kick-off.

Round 3, Saturday 26th October 1996, Breakers Stadium

Newcastle Breakers	**1**	**Perth Glory**	**3**
M.Wilson 26		S.Despotovski 31, 33 P.Strudwick 82	
HT 1-2		Att: 3,750	(PG-10th)

Newcastle
Liam Baker, Shane Pryce, Glenn Sprod, Robert Ironside, Scott Thomas, Clayton Zane, Troy Halpin, Todd McManus, Jason Bennett (Harry James 65), Mark Wilson, Matt Austin.
Subs not used: Craig Sharpley, Liam McGuire
Yellow Cards: T.Halpin 6, C.Zane 56
Perth Glory
T.Maras, V.Beretovac, C.Naven, V.Buljubasic, G.Naven, S.Miller, P.McVittie, P.Strudwick (V.Kalogeracos 80), S.Despotovski, D.Ithier, D.Wingell (G.Wilkinson 66).
Subs not used: P.Vukmirovic
Yellow Cards: C.Naven 11, G.Naven 52
Referee: Simon Micallef

The impression created after the Glory's first two matches was that the season ahead was going to be long and traumatic, but the optimists were given fresh heart when they fought back from 1-0 down after 26 minutes to lead 2-1 seven minutes later. Bobby Despotovski grabbed the vital goals and Paul Strudwick ensured the destiny of the points with another well taken goal in the 82nd minute.

ERICSSON CUP Season 1996/97

Round 4, Sunday 3rd November 1996, Perth Oval

Perth Glory 6 **Canberra Cosmos** 0

P.McVittie 19
S.Despotovski 31, 87
D.Wingell 32
G.Naven 67
S.Miller 80

HT 3-0 Att: 8,053 (PG-5th)

Perth Glory

T.Maras, V.Beretovac, C.Naven, V.Buljubasic, G.Naven, S.Miller, P.McVittie, P.Strudwick (V.Kalogeracos 68), S.Despotovski, D.Ithier, D.Wingell (G.Wilkinson 81).
Subs not used: V.Matassa
Yellow Cards: V.Beretovac 28, V.Buljubasic 33, S.Despotovski 88, Red Cards: V.Beretovac 77

Canberra Cosmos

Anthony Giannasca, Paul Dee, Richard Watson, Paul Wade, Mike Garcia, Norman Kelly, Lachlan Armstrong, Lindsay Wilson, James Baxter, John Koch, Peter Mazis.
Subs not used: Dave Milin, Mladen Rogic, Peter Buljan
Yellow Cards: R.Watson 13, N.Kelly 25, P.Mazis 57

Referee: Barry Panella

If Perth Glory are the new arrivals to the NSL, then Canberra can still be accorded the tag of a club in its infancy. On this performance, however they have little in common. The home side were in commanding form with Scott Miller and Vladimir Beretovac, in particular, outstanding. Bobby Despotovski also underlined that his potential at this level is being turned into something more substantial.
Fact: Glory's biggest win of the season and their first red card awarded to Beretovac.

Round 5, Sunday 10th November 1996, Victoria Park

Collingwood Warriors 0 **Perth Glory 0**

HT 0-0 Att: 5,504 (PG-7th)

Collingwood

Frank Juric, Tom Karapatsos (Brian MacNicol 78), George Jolevski, Dean Fak, John Waddell, Con Boutsianis, Carlo Taladira, Rick Cerracchio, Ernie Tapai, Andy Vlahos, Kimon Taliadoros.
Subs not used: Dean Anastasiadis
Yellow Cards: T.Karapatsos 64

Perth Glory

T.Maras, C.Naven, G.Wilkinson, V.Buljubasic, G.Naven, S.Miller, P.McVittie, P.Strudwick, S.Despotovski, D.Ithier, D.Wingell.
Subs not used: V.Kalogeracos, P.Vukmirovic, V.Matassa
Yellow Cards: Nil

Referee: Wayne Dade

Rightly or wrongly Collingwood Warriors are seen as the remnants of Apia Leichhardt who were demoted from the competition the previous season, but attendance figures indicate that the meeting of the two new clubs caught the public's imagination. The Warriors won the pre-season Johnnie Walker Cup in compelling fashion and on this performance tested a Glory side that had very much stiffened its defensive resolve.
Fact: the first NSL match that the Glory failed to find the back of the net, but more importantly did not concede a goal.

Round 6, Saturday 16th November 1996, Perth Oval

Perth Glory 2 **Gippsland Falcons** 3

V.Kalogeracos 60
P.Strudwick 80

E.Krncevic 21 (pen), 34
D.Marcina 25

HT 0-3 Att: 6,299 (PG-7th)

Perth Glory

T.Maras, C.Naven, G.Wilkinson (V.Kalogeracos 45), V.Buljubasic, G.Naven, S.Miller, P.McVittie, P.Strudwick, S.Despotovski, D.Ithier, D.Wingell.
Subs not used: V.Beretovac, P.Vukmirovic
Yellow Cards: G.Naven 74, S.Despotovski 52

Gippsland Falcons

Jim Kourtis, Doug Marcina, Marcus Stergiopoulos, Steve Mangos, Nick Palamaras, Hugo Gimenez, Mark Foy (Leven Osman 60), Eddie Krncevic (Billy Wright 64), Alex Duric (Esala Masi 64), Clayton Bell, Will Hastie.
Yellow Cards: Nil

Referee: Andy Gorton

After recent good form the home crowd duly turned up expecting another Canberra-like goalscoring feast. However, Frank Arok's side are, if anything, gritty and in true fashion they defended stoically and took advantage of defensive lapses. Glory dominated the match bar a 12 minute period in the first-half when their defence was breached three times. Glory rallied in the second-half and could console themselves with the enthusiasm shown by the players to rectify a seemingly hopeless situation. Then there was the incessant backing from The Shed that announced a new spirit had been born and it largely carried the club to the end of the season. Bobby Despotovski and Paul Strudwick added to their fledgeling reputations with a second-half goal each.

Round 7, Saturday 23rd November 1996, Edensor Park

Sydney United	**4**	**Perth Glory**	**2**
V.Kupresak 36		P.Strudwick 11	
D.Zdrilic 38		V.Kalogeracos 72	
K.Marusic 43			
A.Milicic 61			
HT 3-1		Att: 3,450	(PG-9th)

Sydney United
Zeljko Kalac, Rob Trajkovski, Velimir Kupresak, Mark Babic, Rob Enes (Damir Cvetko 60), Kresimir Marusic, Ante Moric, Ante Milicic (Chad Gibson 81), Dave Zdrilic, Paul Bilokapic, Marko Rodan.
Subs not used: Rob Markovac
Yellow Cards: A.Milicic 66, D.Cvetko 80
Perth Glory
T.Maras, C.Naven, V.Buljubasic, G.Naven, S.Miller, P.McVittie, P.Strudwick, S.Despotovski, V.Kalogeracos, D.Ithier, D.Wingell.
Subs not used: V.Beretovac, G.Wilkinson, P.Vukmirovic
Yellow Cards: Nil
Referee: Con Diomis

Despite the scoreline Perth Glory won many plaudits for their fighting performance against a very impressive Sydney United. The eventual Minor Premiers capitalised on Glory's lack of concentration towards the end of the first-half, but the players steadfastly refused to give up and, considering their possession, were unfortunate not to leave with a share of the points.
Coach Gary Marocchi said, "They never gave up. They kept pressing, kept creating opportunities, got one goal back and were unlucky not to snare another one inside the last 10 minutes. If we had scored then, it would have been an interesting finish as anything could have happened."

Round 8, Sunday 1st December 1996, Perth Oval

Perth Glory	**2**	**Adelaide City**	**1**
G.Wilkinson 84		A.Tobin 38	
S.Despotovski 90			
HT 0-1		Att: 9,765	(PG-6th)

Perth Glory
T.Maras, C.Naven, G.Wilkinson, V.Buljubasic, G.Naven, S.Miller, P.McVittie, S.Despotovski, V.Kalogeracos (V.Beretovac 76), D.Wingell, P.Strudwick.
Subs not used: D.Ithier, P.Vukmirovic
Yellow Cards: G.Wilkinson 23, S.Miller 56, P.McVittie 64
Adelaide City
Jason Petkovic, Brad Armour, Milan Ivanovic, Alex Tobin, Angelo Costanzo, Brad Hassell (Mike Brooks 26), Dino Mennillo, John Gibson, Mike Musitano, Mark Brazzale, Kosta Salapasidis (Mark Yates 82).
Subs not used: Joe Barbaro
Yellow Cards: M.Brazzale 21, K.Salapasidis 82
Referee: Eddie Lennie

Perth Glory celebrated their birthday with no mean amount of style in an engrossing encounter. The opposition are regarded as standard bearers in the league for their continually high standards, but Glory came of age in more ways than one. For long spells Glory pressured the Adelaide defence for no reward. But late in the match and with the opposition resolutely defending a seemingly impregnable 1-0 lead, coach Gary Marocchi pulled a tactical masterstroke by taking off Vas Kalogeracos and bringing on Vladimir Beretovac. Suddenly tired legs began to tell and with the crowd exhorting on the Glory to greater effort, New Zealand international Gavin Wilkinson bundled home a late corner. The crowd erupted, Adelaide visibly wilted and spirits soared when Bobby Despotovski skipped in to flick home the winner with seconds remaining. A memorable day.

Round 9, Saturday 7th December 1996, Suncorp Stadium

Brisbane Strikers	**1**	**Perth Glory**	**5**
M.Battistin 87		G.Wilkinson 14	
		S.Despotovski 51, 68	
		V.Kalogeracos 53	
		P.Strudwick 56	
HT 0-1		Att: 4,028	(PG-4th)

Brisbane Strikers
Clint Bolton, Alan Hunter, Gary Phillips (Matt Bell 56), Frank Farina, Danny Wright, Troy Cranney, Mark Battistin, Vedran Becirbegovic (Wayne Knipe 71), Andy Brayshaw (Brad Ditton 28), Kasey Wehrman, Reece Tollenaere.
Yellow Cards: Nil
Perth Glory
V.Matassa, C.Naven, G.Wilkinson (D.Ithier 71), V.Buljubasic, G.Naven, S.Miller, P.McVittie (P.Vukmirovic 83), P.Strudwick, S.Despotovski, V.Kalogeracos (V.Beretovac 66), D.Wingell.
Yellow Cards: S.Despotovski 45
Referee: Mark Shield

If the previous result gave the Glory cause for confidence, then the nation's soccer media were speechless after this match. Glory had taken an early lead, and were an incredible 4-0 up after 56 minutes, but unlike the Sydney United match, kept their shape and confidence and with Bobby Despotovski, Vas Kalogeracos and Paul Strudwick in devastating form, this match was a tactical highlight of the season.

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Round 10, Saturday 14th December 1996, Perth Oval

Perth Glory	**3**	**Wollongong City**	**1**
P.Strudwick 1		L.Naumovski 29	
S.Despotovski 25, 35			
HT 3-1		Att: 10,281	(PG-3rd)

Perth Glory
V.Matassa, C.Naven, V.Buljubasic, G.Naven, S.Miller, P.McVittie, P.Strudwick, S.Despotovski, D.Ithier, V.Kalogeracos (P.Vukmirovic 83), D.Wingell (V.Beretovac 74).
Subs not used: T.Maras
Yellow Cards: Nil
Wollongong City
Brett Hughes, Alvin Ceccoli, Gary Van Egmond, Martin Bourke (Anthony Surjan 53), Matt Horsley, Sony Sevin, Lujpico Naumovski, Mike Reda, Neil Harlock, Nick Joseski (Scott Chipperfield 45), Richard Lloyd (Mike Kariamis 64).
Yellow Cards: G.Van Egmond 16
Referee: Eddie Lennie

All the goals were scored in a thrilling first-half as Paul Strudwick fired home the opener within 60 seconds with Bobby Despotovski grabbing a brace. Wollongong's consolation was sandwiched between the latter's two clinically taken goals. The Glory moved to third on the table and the club were already exceeding the expectations of their Eastern States critics. Heady days indeed.

Round 11, Saturday 21st December 1996, Bob Jane Stadium

South Melbourne	**1**	**Perth Glory**	**0**
V.Coveny 63			
HT 0-0		Att: 7,896	(PG-7th)

South Melbourne
Mike Petkovic, Nick Orlic, Alek Kuzmanovic, Con Blatsis, Jason Polak, Vaughan Coveny (Dan Allsopp 88), Paul Trimboli (Steve Iosifidis 64), Bill Damianos, Dave Clarkson, Ivan Kelic (M.Curcija 82), Fausto De Amicis.
Yellow Cards: N.Orlic 28
Perth Glory
V.Matassa, C.Naven, G.Wilkinson, V.Buljubasic, G.Naven, S.Miller, P.McVittie, P.Strudwick, S.Despotovski, V.Kalogeracos, D.Wingell.
Subs not used: V.Beretovac, D.Ithier, P.Vukmirovic
Yellow Cards: S.Despotovski 17
Referee: Eugene Brazzale

An accomplished midfield performance from the home side severely restricted Glory's ability to supply an effective final ball into the danger area. However, further proof that the team was beginning to gel as the defence provided stout resistance and were unfortunate to concede a dubious penalty.

Round 12, Saturday 28th December 1996, Perth Oval

Perth Glory	**3**	**Melbourne Knights**	**2**
P.McVittie 34		A.Cervinski 53, 60	
V.Kalogeracos 40			
S.Miller 90			
HT 2-0		Att: 14,757	(PG-3rd)

Perth Glory
V.Matassa, C.Naven, G.Wilkinson, V.Buljubasic, G.Naven, S.Miller, P.McVittie, P.Strudwick, S.Despotovski, V.Kalogeracos (V.Beretovac 79), D.Wingell.
Subs not used: D.Ithier, A.MacKenzie
Yellow Cards: D.Wingell 57. Red Cards: D.Wingell 77
Melbourne Knights
Joey Didulica, Dave Cervinski, Zoran Markovski, Andrew Marth, Joe Simunic, Lubo Lapsansky (Adrian Cervinski 45), Ice Kutlesovski, Tom Pondeljak, Ante Kovacevic, Joe Caleta (Damian Vojtek 34), Ivan Duzel (Josip Biskic 78).
Yellow Cards: Z.Markovski 21, J.Simunic 83
Referee: Andy Gorton

With a massive crowd of 14,757 enjoying the festive atmosphere and sun, Glory strode out and simply took the opposition apart. However, a two-goal advantage was quickly cancelled as the Glory players appeared resigned to settling for a disappointing point. But they had not counted on The Shed who willed the players on in injury time. Gavin Wilkinson won the ball on the 18-yard box and Scott Miller spectacularly volleyed home. The best possible Christmas present for the home support.

Round 13, Saturday 4th January 1997, Bossley Park

Marconi	**1**	**Perth Glory**	**2**
A.Harper 43		V.Kalogeracos 9, 66	
HT 1-1		Att: 5,419	(PG-3rd)

Marconi
Bob Catlin, Ron Stanton (Mark Robertson 77), Matt Bingley, Luke Casserly, Andy Harper, Craig Foster (Eric Hristodoulou 71), Brad Maloney, Dominic Longo, Zeljko Babic, Francis Awaritefe, Vlado Zoric.
Subs not used: Andrew Ravanello
Yellow Cards: Nil
Perth Glory
V.Matassa, V.Beretovac (D.Ithier 45), C.Naven, G.Wilkinson, V.Buljubasic, G.Naven, S.Miller, P.McVittie, P.Strudwick, S.Despotovski, V.Kalogeracos.
Subs not used: A.MacKenzie, P.Vukmirovic
Yellow Cards: G.Wilkinson 32, V.Matassa 85.
Referee: Simon Micallef

Vas Kalogeracos stole the show with two goals in an even match that, in fairness, neither side deserved to lose. But since when has the principles of justice officiated at a soccer match. Glory two, Marconi one. End of story.

Round 14, Sunday 12th January 1997, Perth Oval

Perth Glory	**1**	**Marconi**	**1**
P.Strudwick 59		A.Harper 75	
HT 0-0		Att: 17,582	(PG-4th)

Perth Glory
V.Matassa, C.Naven, G.Wilkinson, V.Buljubasic, G.Naven, S.Miller, P.McVittie, P.Strudwick, S.Despotovski, V.Kalogeracos, D.Wingell (D.Ithier 71).
Subs not used: V.Beretovac, A.MacKenzie
Yellow Cards: V.Buljubasic 49
Marconi
Les Pogliacomi, Rob Stanton, Matt Bingley, Luke Casserly, Andy Harper, Craig Foster, Brad Maloney (Andrew Ravanello 71), Dominic Longo, Mark Robertson, Zeljko Babic, Francis Awaritefe (Eric Hristodoulou 78).
Subs not used: Vlado Zoric
Yellow Cards: R.Stanton 17, D.Longo 43, Z.Babic 88
Referee: Eugene Brazzale

The talking point from this encounter was not what transpired on the field, but off it as an incredible 17,582 turned up to witness a match that gradually became bogged down in midfield. Paul Strudwick capped another fine performance with the opening goal, but questions were asked of the defence when the energetic Andy Harper popped home the equaliser. The forced mid-season break – due to international commitments – has also come at the right time as the Glory's limited squad has been fully extended with niggling injuries and suspensions.

Round 15, Sunday 2nd February 1997, Belmore Oval

UTS Olympic	**0**	**Perth Glory**	**2**
		og (D.Barrett) 11	
		S.Despotovski 42	
HT 0-2		Att: 7,124	(PG-3rd)

UTS Olympic
Tony Franken, Dave Barrett, Adam Ciantar, Scott Baillie, Norm Tome (Walter Ardone 63), Brett Emerton, Kris Trajanovski, Elias Augerinos (Ivan Zelic 79), Derek Poimer (Carlos Gonzalez 79), Milan Blagojevic, Dave Mitchell.
Yellow Cards: D.Barrett 31, A.Ciantar 35
Perth Glory
V.Matassa, C.Naven, G.Wilkinson, V.Buljubasic, G.Naven, S.Miller, P.McVittie, P.Strudwick, S.Despotovski, V.Kalogeracos (A.MacKenzie 70), D.Wingell.
Subs not used: D.Ithier, P.Vukmirovic
Yellow Cards: G.Naven, V.Buljubasic 74
Referee: Brett Hugo

At the completion of the first-half this match was over as a contest bar the keep-ball exercise which Glory employed against an inept UTS that had no urge to redress the scoreline imbalance. The opener was fortuitous as Despotovski's intended pass for Dale Wingell was deflected into his own net by Dave Barrett. Despotovski again displayed his aerial prowess when he nonchalantly flicked home from a corner just before half-time. Glory's leading goalscorer is not the tallest and most direct of strikers, but he has good positional sense and timing which ensures a fair share of goals from either foot or head.

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Round 16, Sunday 9th February 1997, Perth Oval

Perth Glory	**1**	**West Adelaide**	**1**
V.Kalogeracos 31		J.Tsekinis 32	
HT 0-0		Att: 15,733	(PG-3rd)

Perth Glory
V.Matassa, C.Naven, G.Wilkinson, V.Buljubasic, S.Miller (Capt), P.McVittie, P.Strudwick, S.Despotovski, V.Kalogeracos, D.Wingell, V.Beretovac.
Subs not used: D.Ithier, P.Vukmirovic, A.MacKenzie
Yellow Cards: P.McVittie 9, S.Despotovski 70, P.Strudwick 82, V.Buljubasic 89
West Adelaide
Mike Harkness, Hamilton Thorp (Andrew Borghetto 81), Robbie Hooker, Alex Castro, Ross Aloisi, Branko Milosevic (Richie Alagich 71), Con Kokkinoplitis, Nathan Day (Pablo Cardozo 76), Frank Tibaldi, Jim Tsekinis, Paul Pezos.
Yellow Cards: N.Day 49, C.Kokkinoplitis 51, A.Castro 79
Referee: Eddie Lennie

It is still difficult to grasp the magnitude of what Perth Glory have accomplished as again another vast crowd of 15,733 turned out in glorious sunshine to bathe their heroes in accolades. Unfortunately the match did not run to script as missing Gareth Naven in midfield, through suspension, many of Glory's midfield counter-attacking moves lacked the drive and urgency which he typically supplies in spades. However, Glory did start the match well before the match petered out to a tame draw. Kalogeracos grabbed a well taken goal, but a lack of concentration gifted West Adelaide a shock equaliser 60 seconds later.

Round 17, Saturday 15th February 1997, Perth Oval

Perth Glory	**0**	**Newcastle Breakers**	**2**
		L.McGuire 12	
		M.Wilson 52	
HT 0-1		Att: 11,546	(PG-4th)

Perth Glory
V.Matassa, C.Naven, G.Wilkinson, G.Naven, S.Miller, P.McVittie, P.Strudwick, A.MacKenzie (M.Wingell), D.Ithier (P.Vukmirovic 60), V.Kalogeracos, D.Wingell.
Subs not used: V.Beretovac.
Yellow Cards: G.Naven 60
Newcastle Breakers
Liam Baker, Shane Pryce, Glen Sprod, Peter Ritchie, Scott Thomas, Clayton Zane, Troy Halpin, Todd McManus, Mark Wilson, Matt Austin, Liam McGuire (James Harry 78).
Subs not used: Andy Roberts, Craig Sharpley
Yellow Cards: C.Zane 29, S.Thomas 54, T.McManus 68
Referee: Wayne Dade

It is a measure of the home team's progress in its National Soccer League debut season that others place great store in stopping them from playing. However, Newcastle did more than just restrict Glory's goalscoring opportunities as they posed the home defence many questions that went unanswered with Laim McGuire timing his run well to beat the off-side trap early on. In the second-half Glory fared little better despite their greater possession when they were unable to clear their lines from three consecutive corners and Mark Wilson effectively put the match out of Glory's reach with just 52 minutes on the clock.
Fact: Glory fail to score at home for first time.

Round 18, Saturday 22nd February 1997, Bruce Stadium

Canberra Cosmos	**4**	**Perth Glory**	**1**
N.Kelly 10		S.Despotovski 42	
L.Armstrong 49			
P.Dee 65			
J.Markovski 75			
HT 1-1		Att: 2,626	(PG-6th)

Canberra Cosmos
Danny Milosevic, Paul Dee, Paul Wade (Vince Grella 85), Michael Garcia, Norman Kelly, Lachlan Armstrong, John Markovski (Tony Lemezina 78), John Koch, Peter Mazis, George Sorras, Rodrigo Moreno.
Subs not used: James Baxter
Yellow Cards: N.Kelly 79
Perth Glory
V.Matassa, C.Naven (A.Mackenzie 73), G.Wilkinson, V.Buljubasic, G.Naven, S.Miller (M.Wingell 75), P.McVittie, P.Strudwick, S.Despotovski, V.Kalogeracos, D.Wingell.
Subs not used: P.Vukmirovic
Yellow Cards: nil
Red Cards: S.Despotovski 52
Referee: Eugene Brazzale
While it is fair to say Perth Glory has enjoyed many highlights in a tumultous debut season this was certainly not one of their sweeter moments. Although the score at half-time was 1-1 (Bobby Despotovski cancelling out an earlier Norman Kelly strike) the second half descended into despair as Cosmos delightedly piled on the misery courtesy of Lachlan Armstrong, Paul Dee and John Markovski.

Round 19, Sunday 2nd March 1997, Perth Oval

Perth Glory	**0**	**Collingwood Warriors 2**	
		C.Boutsianis 13	
		P.Di Lorio 61	
HT 0-1		Att: 10,964	(PG-7th)

Perth Glory
V.Matassa, C.Naven, G.Wilkinson (A.MacKenzie 68), V.Buljubasic, G.Naven, S.Miller, P.McVittie, P.Strudwick, V.Kalogeracos, D.Wingell, A.Carbone.
Subs not used: P.Vukmirovic, M.Wingell
Yellow Cards: nil
Collingwood Warriors
Frank Juric, Joe Vrkic, Paul Della Rocca, Alan Davidson, Goran Lozanovski, Ernie Tapai, Con Boutsianis, Andy Vlahos, Brian MacNicol, Peter Di Lorio, Frank Catalano.
Subs not used: Dean Anastasiadis, Leigh Tsoumerkas, Mile Meredovic
Yellow Cards: F.Catalano 6, P.Della Rocca 31, G.Lozanovski 36, A.Davidson 70
Referee: Barry Panella

Glory's run of poor form continued, but it was not for lack of effort as they battled manfully against a 10-man defence. However, Warriors took advantage of the few opportunities they created to finish clinically and with Despotovski suspended, the home side lacked a focal point to their numerous attacking moves.

Round 20, Saturday 8th March 1997, Falcons Park

Gippsland Falcons	**1**	**Perth Glory**	**1**
M.Foy 55		A.MacKenzie 60	
HT 0-0		Att: 2,149	(PG-7th)

Gippsland Falcons
Jim Kourtis, Doug Marcina, Marcus Stergiopoulos, Mark Foy, Eddie Krncevic, Esala Masi, Archie Thompson (John Hutchinson 72), Tony Sekulic, Manny Gotis, Will Hastie (Claudio Canosa 81), Joe Tricarico (Leven Osman 78).
Yellow Cards: E.Masi 12, J.Tricario 22, M.Gotis 29
Perth Glory
R.Zabica, C.Naven, G.Wilkinson, V.Buljubasic, G.Naven, S.Miller, P.McVittie, P.Strudwick, V.Kalogeracos, D.Wingell, A.Carbone (A.MacKenzie 57).
Subs not used: D.Ithier, M.Wingell
Yellow Cards: D.Wingell 26, A.Carbone 37, P.McVittie 89
Referee: Con Diomis

After disappointing in their last three matches, the positives Glory could take from this match were plentiful. The Falcons are difficult to beat on their own ground and an improved Glory defence were kept busy with debutant keeper, Robert Zabica, making several outstanding saves. Tony Carbone, a recent arrival after a spell with top English club Nottingham Forest, also began to find his feet and those of his teammates with some incisive passing. But the Glory needed a goal to reward their endeavours and Alan MacKenzie duly supplied it when he forced the ball home on the hour after the Falcons were unable to clear a dangerous corner.

Round 21, Saturday 15th March 1997, Perth Oval

Perth Glory	**3**	**Sydney United**	**1**
D.Wingell 20		R.Enes 48	
V.Kalogeracos 29, 65			
HT 2-0		Att: 11,644	(PG-6th)

Perth Glory
R.Zabica, C.Naven, G.Wilkinson, V.Buljubasic, G.Naven, S.Miller, P.McVittie, V.Kalogeracos (A.MacKenzie 75), S.Despotovski, D.Wingell, A.Carbone.
Subs not used: V.Beretovac, P.Vukmirovic
Yellow Cards: S.Miller 7, A.Carbone 72
Sydney United
Zeljko Kalac, Robert Trajkovski (Jason Culina 64), Velimer Kupresak, Mark Babic, Robert Enes, Ante Moric, Ante Milicic, Aytec Genc, David Zdrilic, Paul Bilokapic, Damir Cvetko (Robert Markovac 55).
Subs not used: Mark Rudan
Yellow Cards: A.Genc 7, P.Bilokapic 36, R.Enes 46
Referee: Gerry Connolly

If football is a funny old game then coach Gary Marocchi was sporting the widest of grins at the completion of 90 minutes. The Glory had their usual whirlwind start with Dale Wingell profiting at the back post with a looping header that acted like a cathartic release to transform the players. That factor certainly applied to Vas Kalogeracos as he magnificently turned two United players in the penalty box and bulleted the ball home from an acute right angle. However, Sydney are too good a team not to try and take something from a match and so it proved when a dipping free-kick from Robert Enes beat Robert Zabica within two minutes of the re-start. However, the home side did not buckle under pressure and with Gavin Wilkinson outstanding, Kalogeracos put the match beyond doubt with another piece of sharp finishing.

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Round 22, Sunday 23rd March 1997, Hindmarsh Stadium

Adelaide City	**1**	**Perth Glory**	**1**
M.Brooks 65		S.Despotovski 55	
HT 0-0		Att: 5,253	(PG-6th)

Adelaide City
Jason Petkovic, Bradley Armour, Mark Yates, Milan Ivanovic, Alex Tobin, John Gibson, Mike Brooks (Joe Barbaro 84), Mark Brazzale (Michael Irone 73), Kosta Salapasidis, Nick Sabljak, Sergei Vaskin (Travis Dodd 62).
Yellow Cards: N.Sabljak 83
Perth Glory
R.Zabica, C.Naven, G.Wilkinson, V.Buljubasic, G.Naven, S.Miller, P.McVittie, S.Despotovski (A.MacKenzie 59), V.Kalogeracos, D.Wingell, A.Carbone.
Subs not used: V.Beretovac, M.Wingell
Yellow Cards: C.Naven 26, A.MacKenzie 79
Referee: Simon Micallef

Adelaide City is the yardstick by which most aspiring clubs measure themselves and, on this evidence, the Glory deserve a play-off spot as they matched the home side. Glory had several chances in the first-half, but failed to find the back of the net until Bobby Despotovski scored with a sublime piece of skill when he turned his marker and shot low into the far corner in one breathtaking moment. Michael Brooks deservedly equalised for the Zebras when he beat the off-side trap to coolly finish.

Round 23, Sunday 30th March 1997, Perth Oval

Perth Glory	**0**	**Brisbane Strikers**	**2**
		T.Cranney 13	
		K.Wehrman 89	
HT 0-1		Att: 12,858	(PG-6th)

Perth Glory
R.Zabica (T.Maras 45), G.Wilkinson, V.Buljubasic, G.Naven, S.Miller, P.McVittie, S.Despotovski, V.Kalogeracos, D.Wingell (V.Beretovac 72), A.Carbone, P.Vukmirovic (A.MacKenzie 75).
Yellow Cards: nil
Brisbane Strikers
Clint Bolton, Glenn Gwynne, Gary Phillips, Frank Farina, Sean Cranney (Chay Hews 62), Rod Brown (Matt Bell 72), Danny Wright, Troy Cranney, Wayne Knipe, Craig Williams, Nick Meredith (Kasey Wehrman 62).
Yellow Cards: nil
Referee: Wayne Dade

Again the Glory showed a lack of mental resolve in overcoming an early setback as Troy Cranney fired a long range shot through a crowd of legs and the home side were unable to break down a solid Strikers' defence. Kasey Wehrman put the seal on a professional Brisbane performance when he completed the scoring in injury-time.

Round 24, Saturday 5th April 1997, Brandon Park

Wollongong City	**1**	**Perth Glory**	**3**
J.Connolly 34 (pen)		S.Despotovski 8, 69 (pen)	
		G.Wilkinson 67	
HT 1-1		Att: 3,158	(PG-6th)

Wollongong City
Brett Hughes, Alvin Ceccoli, Gary Van Egmond, Martin Bourke, Matt Horsley, Sonny Sevin (Stephen Laybutt 79), Sasho Dimoski, Michael Reda (Richard Lloyd 56), Neil Harlock (Colin Luff 73), Scott Chipperfield, Jason Connolly.
Yellow Cards: B.Hughes 69
Perth Glory
R.Zabica, C.Naven, G.Wilkinson, V.Buljubasic, G.Naven, S.Miller, P.McVittie, S.Despotovski, V.Kalogeracos (A.MacKenzie 79), D.Wingell (P.Strudwick 56), A.Carbone.
Subs not used: P.Vukmirovic
Yellow Cards: G.Naven 37
Red Cards: P.McVittie 34
Referee: Wayne Dade

This was the type of match that instils team spirit and adds tradition and history to a club. Glory were coasting 1-0 in a crucial match to their play-off aspirations when, unbelievably, Paul McVittie was sent-off for deliberate hand ball when a shot struck him. To add insult to injury Jason Connolly smartly netted the penalty to restore parity. However, in the second-half the Glory defended resolutely, the midfield covered every blade of grass and the attack harassed the home defence to an extent that the extra man was not noticeable. Gavin Wilkinson forced home a fortuitous rebound and a Despotovski penalty sealed the match and a very professional performance.

Round 25, Saturday 12th April 1997, Perth Oval

Perth Glory **4** **South Melbourne** **0**

V.Kalogeracos 4, 43, 45
o.g. (C.Blatsis) 65

HT 3-0 Att; 15,197 (PG-6th)

Perth Glory

R.Zabica, V.Beretovac (A.MacKenzie 68), C.Naven, G.Wilkinson, V.Buljubasic, G.Naven, S.Miller (D.Wingell 68), P.Strudwick, S.Despotovski, V.Kalogeracos, A.Carbone (P.Vukmirovic 77).
Yellow Cards: A.Carbone 22, A.MacKenzie 89

South Melbourne

Michael Petkovic, Nick Orlic, Alex Kuzmanovic, Con Blatsis, Steve Panopoulos (Jason Polak 68), Vaughan Coveny, Paul Trimboli (Bill Damianos 68), Steve Iosifidis, David Clarkson, Ivan Kelic, Fausto Deamicis.
*Mike Curcija on for I.Kelic (74th min) not on referee's report.
Yellow Cards: A.Kuzmanovic 33, S.Iosifidis 34,
Red Cards: V.Coveny 41, A.Kuzmanovic 63

Referee: Brett Hugo

Put simply Perth Glory had to win to have a realistic chance of reaching the play-offs and with Vas Kalogeracos in stunning form this match was over as a contest by half-time. The diminutive striker had been criticised for his inconsistency, but his prowess in front of goal is beyond question as three first-half goals show. His third strike, a ferocious swerving drive from 25 metres, won SBSTV Goal of the Season and deservedly so.

Round 26, Sunday 20th April 1997, Knights Park

Melbourne Knights **3** **Perth Glory** **1**

T.Pondeljak 44, 57
A.Cervinski 85 (pen)

A.Carbone 10

HT 1-1 Att: 8,709 (PG-7th)

Melbourne Knights

Joe Didulica, Dragi Nastevski, Zoran Markovski, Andrew Marth, Marjan Tasevski, Lubo Lapsansky, Ice Kutlesovski, Tomislav Pondeljak, Ante Kovacevic, Ransford Banini (Ivan Duzel 64), Adrian Cervinski.
Subs not used: Pug Rajher, Ante Deak
Yellow Cards: Z.Markovski 26, L.Lapsansky 37, D.Nastevski 65, I.Kutlesovski 89

Perth Glory

R.Zabica, C.Naven, G.Wilkinson, V.Buljubasic, G.Naven (P.Vukmirovic 83), S.Miller, P.McVittie (D.Wingell 80), P.Strudwick, S.Despotovski, V.Kalogeracos, A.Carbone.
Subs not used: A.MacKenzie
Yellow Cards: P.Strudwick 26, C.Naven 42, S.Miller 58, G.Wilkinson 81, V.Buljubasic 84, R.Zabica 86
Red Cards: P.Strudwick 53

Referee: Simon Micallef

The equation was simple: Glory had to prevent their opponents from taking more than a point to ensure they, and not the Knights, finished sixth and in the play-offs. Sadly that was not to be as Perth Glory endured a hostile home crowd that bordered on naked hostility. Tony Carbone got the proceedings off to a solid start with a quick goal, but thereafter the visitors valiantly sought to protect their solitary lead. It was never going to be enough and so it proved cruelly on the stroke of half-time when Tom Pondeljak equalised. The match turned on its head when Paul Strudwick was ordered off and Pondeljak netted his second. With the Glory desperately searching for an equaliser they were caught on a breakaway and Adrian Cervinski efficiently converted the penalty. One other note of significance, Perth Glory had five players booked and one sent off and that from the side who won the NSL Fair Play award. Those who doubt whether a partisan home crowd can influence a referee should make themselves available to watch a video of this fixture.

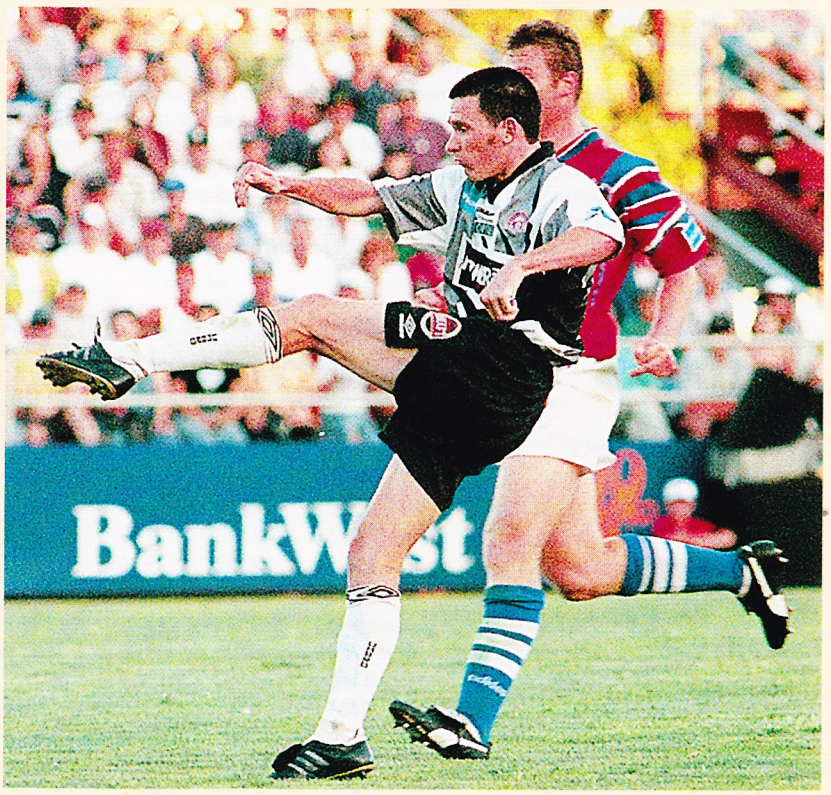
ERICSSON CUP ATTENDANCES 1996/97

	HIGHEST		LOWEST		AVERAGE		TOTAL	TOTAL	GRAND
	HOME	**AWAY**	**HOME**	**AWAY**	**HOME**	**AWAY**	**HOME**	**AWAY**	TOTAL
ADELAIDE CITY	8914	10399	2507	2050	4737	5540	61586	72021	133607
BRISBANE STRIKERS	13121	12858	3509	616	5077	5176	65998	67290	133288
CANBERRA COSMOS	4710	8053	1917	2667	2814	4525	36580	58823	95403
COLLINGWOOD WARRIORS	12561	12652	616	1371	4094	5802	53224	69624	122848
GIPPSLAND FALCONS	5137	7128	2149	2100	2973	4318	38647	56140	94787
MARCONI-FAIRFIELD	10331	17582	3936	2345	5786	6556	75216	85222	160438
MELBOURNE KNIGHTS	8709	14757	2794	3127	4886	6056	63479	78732	142211
NEWCASTLE BREAKERS	6154	11546	1371	2794	4165	4827	54139	62746	116885
PERTH GLORY	17582	8709	6299	2149	11871	4816	154318	62603	216921
SOUTH MELBOURNE	12652	15197	5169	2327	7390	5950	96066	77349	173415
SYDNEY UNITED	11614	13121	3450	1700	6157	7037	80043	91487	171530
UTS OLYMPIC	13724	11381	4624	1917	7061	5920	84734	76958	161692
WEST ADELAIDE	10399	15733	3524	1923	4819	5336	62644	69371	132015
WOLLONGONG CITY	10158	10281	2906	2754	4701	4571	61109	59417	120526

GOALS, GOALS, GOALS

ON THE BOARD...Alan MacKenzie scores the first goal for the Glory in the National League versus UTS Olympic on October 13, 1996.

IN THE NET...Joey Didulica is helpless as Miller's volley is on target.



MATCH WINNER...Scott Miller with a last gasp goal against Melbourne Knights.

OPENING BLAST...Paul Strudwick drills one past Brett Hughes of Wollongong City in the first minute.

ESCAPE ARTIST...Vas Kalogeracos is about to wriggle free from the Sydney United defenders and score a screamer.

THE SEALER...Bobby Despotovski nets the third goal in a 3-1 home win against Wollongong City.

THE NEXT STEP

By Kevin McIlduff

FOREWARNED is forearmed and National Soccer League clubs will indeed be wary of their West Australian opponents in the 1997-98 season ahead.

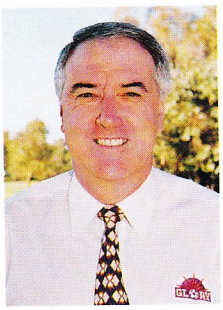
The club — right down from the chairman, general manager and directors through to the coaching staff, players and, one suspects, supporters — realise that making the quantum leap from last season will be an onerous task.

However, failure will not be down to a lack of effort nor organisation and the club will again be spending a third of their income on publicity.

With those thoughts in mind, general manager Roger Lefort and coach Gary Marocchi outlined their plans for Perth Glory to take the next great leap forward.

Kevin McIlduff: The Glory averaged just under 12,000 at the gate last season did you honestly envisage such a high figure?

Roger Lefort: "We looked at the averages for other National Soccer League clubs and they were getting 5000. In our hearts we were hoping for a lot more, but we didn't expect to get the numbers we finally achieved."



Roger Lefort

"It just snowballed. The public were not just turning up for the soccer, but also for the atmosphere that developed and that is something that just got better.

"There had been a desperate hunger for quality soccer in Perth that was not satiated by the once a year international fixture against a European club side.

"There has always been a nucleus of around 10,000 people that we believed would come to the games, if we were good enough. What we are now getting is people other than traditional soccer followers. "There is a great many coming to Perth Glory matches who have never previously been to a soccer game — I'm talking footy and rugby people who just want to be involved in the fun.

"We believe we are nowhere near to maximising our potential audience."

K. Mc: *Glory exceeded Perth's expectations last season, but is there a sense that the bar for success is now being set too high?*

"In terms of numbers through the gates we cannot grow much bigger as our capacity (at Perth Oval) is set at 18,000, but in terms of hype we will get much bigger.

"Radio stations 6NR and 6PR will be doing home and away broadcasts with the ABC covering home games and we will be continuing with Channel Seven's Glory Days program. That will screen at 11am Saturday morning. It will have a bigger budget and will be skewed towards children and have more participation so it will be better done.

"So with all that hype from the three radio stations and also 6PR's Glory Talk which will run for 10-15 minutes on a Tuesday night our promotion will be bigger and better.

"We will also improve the pre-match entertainment and have additional fun things for the kids."

K. Mc: *Given the level of expectation that is building up for the Perth Glory does a fear of failure drive you on to surpass the public's impressions?*

"No it doesn't. I believe we supply a good product that the general public wants. While that requirement is there and we continue to entertain, provide the right atmosphere and market the game in a professional way then I don't think the word failure will cross our lips.

K. Mc: *Why do Glory spend so much money on promotion? Is it because Perth is seen as an AFL-town and therefore we have to compete against them for media attention?*

"We don't believe that we are competing against footy as we have a marketable product that is the world's biggest game. It is also the most watched game.

"We just market the product correctly and we really should have an audience out there. We have also been quite specific in not marketing ourselves towards any ethnic group."

K. Mc: *With the benefit of hindsight, last season's pre-season preparation was not the best and the team suffered accordingly. What steps have been taken to rectify that situation?*

"Last year we were very green and we played no pre-season games of any significance. Everything was rushed as we didn't have a ground and we very nearly pulled out as we wanted another year to do it properly. This year we have organised pre-season games against Adelaide City, Singapore Lions and Brisbane Strikers."

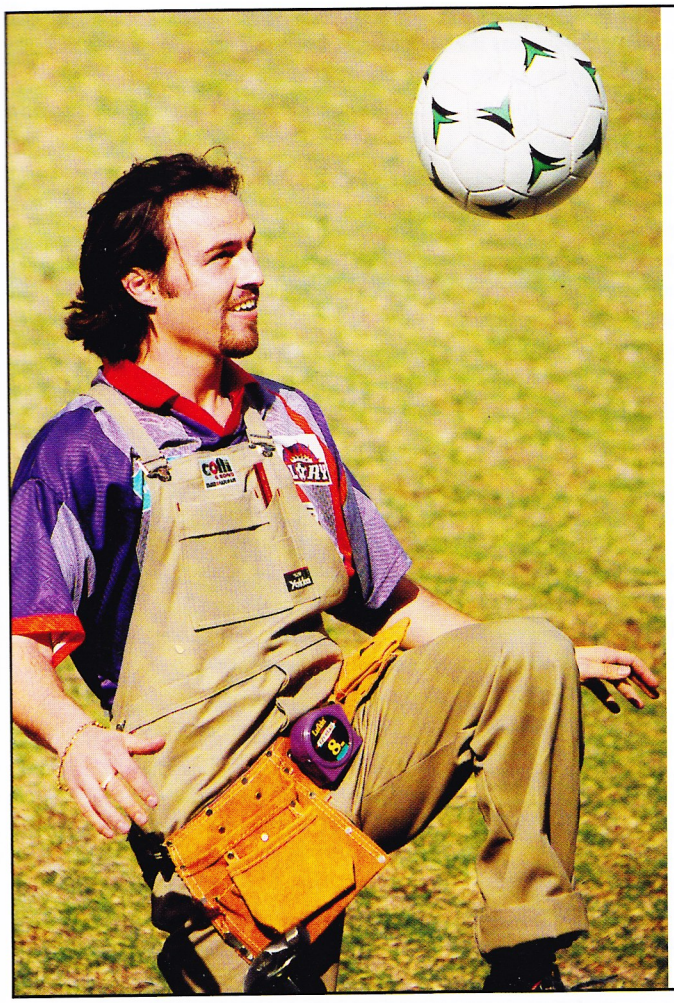
K. Mc: *What is the situation regarding Glory acquiring their own stadium?*

"We have another year of our lease to run at Perth Oval and we are likely to take up the further option on that. The Government are looking into building a new stadium and a group of consultants are reviewing 14-15 sites. I understand that they are now down to the short list and we are hopeful that the site will be announced in the next few months.

"Then, of course, the hard work starts after that. I would say that we will be at

NEW LOOK...General Manager of Western QBE Terry Ibbotson and Nick Tana display the new strip.

MOBILE MEN...Danny Hay, Ernie Tapai, Anthony Franken and Gavin Wilkinson test drive the new Glory bus.



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THE NEXT STEP

Perth Oval for two more years. It will be a stadium built not just for Perth Glory, but one used by other codes. Rugby Union and League matches would also be played there. "Ultimately the stadium will hold 35,000, but it will probably be built in two stages with an initial capacity of 25,000. I don't think we would have a problem of filling a stadium of that size. Look at what happened to Brisbane in the final against Sydney United when they had 40,000.

"Obviously we would not expect to get it every week, but for some big games over the next few years we could get 25,000. I don't think that is unreasonable."

K. Mc: *One aspect that would concern spectators of a new stadium, presumably all-seated, is the loss of atmosphere — you cannot sing when sitting down.*

"If we have our opinion included then I don't think it will be all-seated as one has to look at what is required by the spectators. Certainly, there is an element that likes to stand on the hill and we would be reinforcing to the authorities then we should be building an area that is not seated. I know at some English stadiums, where it is almost mandatory that they are all-seated, the atmosphere has become sterile. It is really important we have some standing areas for supporters who prefer to watch the game that way.

Gary Marocchi

Gary Marocchi also appeared upbeat and relaxed about the season ahead and certainly not daunted by supporters and sponsors demanding a place in the top six.

Contrast those vehemently held beliefs to last season when little was expected of the club and, indeed, success would be judged if they finished around ninth or 10th in a 14-team league.

This season is different and all at Glory are cognisant of the fact that an improvement on last season's eventual heart-breaking seventh place must be improved upon.

K. Mc: *"How will you judge success in the season ahead?*

"If we can improve our overall performance from last season and finish inside the top six then that would be success for me. Of course, we would also want to go on from there and do well in the latter stages of the competition."

GETTING READY...Perth Glory players and officials with the new colours for the 1997/98 season.

"But the season will also be a success if we can bring on the younger players as we have to plan for the future and that means an opportunity to perform. We require a career path for them to progress along."

K. Mc: *What major improvements are you looking for to ensure a better team?*

"Obviously we need to tighten up defensively and not concede as many goals. However, we need to strike a balance as we need to maintain our attacking presence.

"Also, players need to take more responsibility for their actions and discipline of the team needs to improve as we had five players sent-off and we are far from a dirty team (Glory won the the NSL's Fair Play Award).

"I think that was down to inexperience and their frustration getting the better of them. It cost us in the last game where we needed to avoid defeat and at 1-1 we had Paul Strudwick sent-off (Melbourne Knights eventually won 3-1 and Glory finished outside the play-offs)."

K. Mc: *"Having outlined last season's playing deficiencies how are you seeking to improve upon them?*

"Well, we have signed Ernie Tapai who suits our counter-attacking style of play as he is very quick on the break. Also centre-half Danny Hay gives us height at the back and he's a New Zealand internationalist so he has experience and quality. I think a few teams caught us out last term as we are not the tallest at the back.

"Young Michael Garcia will provide much needed competition for places in the midfield and that is something we did not have last season as often the 11 fittest players were the ones selected.

"We have lost the experience of Robert Zabica (the goalkeeper joined English club Bradford City), but we have acquired Tony Franken and he and Tommy Maras will provide competition and bring out the best in each other.

"One of our problems last season was that we did not give our keepers enough cover and as a result their confidence suffered. Maras came in for a lot of criticism last season, but he is by far the best goalkeeper in the local game."

K. Mc: *Do you feel burdened as coach by the weight of expectations that club, sponsors and supporters demand?*

"There is a burden as responsibility ultimately falls on my shoulders. Although if we haven't the personnel then we will certainly not realise our potential. It would be nice to work with more personnel, but as coach you must work with the resources at your disposal and get the best possible results from them."

THE BEST FANS IN THE LAND

HAT TRICK...Glory boy Vas Kalogeracos is touched by fans as he leaves Perth Oval after scoring three of Perths four goals in their match against South Melbourne.

By Richard Kreider

Don't be surprised if you happen to see 'kick me' notes stuck on the backs of the Soccer Australia chiefs after the thrilling debut performance by our Glory boys which very nearly put them in the play offs. And when you add that with the smashing of a long standing record for average home gates, it must surely have agitated the ruling body enough to wonder why the West wasn't admitted years ago.

The average of 11,871 eclipsed the 10,500 record previously held by Newcastle KB United between 1979-81. (Ironically as with Glory, Newcastle lost their very first home game 4-1 to a Sydney team Sydney City, way back in 1978 at the Newcastle International Sports Centre).

Needless to say, Glory chairman Nick Tana is ecstatic about the huge following his team has generated, especially it's vocal component. "It has been noted by commentators in the East that Western Australian crowds tend to be quiet when compared to their eastern states rivals," said Tana. "I am delighted that WA's soccer fans have proven the critics wrong. It is fair to say that we have the best supporters in the country".

The interest had risen to such an extent that after a record 17,582 crammed in to see the home game against Marconi Fairfield in January, the north-western area of the ground dubbed 'the Hill' required a dozen crush barriers for safety precaution for the ensuing home clashes. There was even two security cameras installed to seek out any potential trouble spots, yet thankfully they were hardly employed.

The thirteen home games attracted a total of 154,318; that's a massive 58,000 more than the next best, South Melbourne's Lakers. Even though Tana had never doubted the potential of a Perth side in the nation's premier soccer competition, the overwhelming support assures the Glory boss that his club will do wonders for a sports crazed state where the round ball football code had for so long been strangled for progress by a small but relentless band of patriotic antagonists.

Nevertheless, Tana and his equally enthusiastic partners Paul Afkos, Tony Di Francesco, Jim Davies and Roger Lefort have been resolute in ensuring the team would welcome all West Australians. "Our club will reflect the richness of Perth, both past and present," said Lefort. "The city is a multicultural community pioneering tradition and a glorious reputation". And as history has shown, the strategy worked with thousands of WA soccer fans from a diversity of ethnic backgrounds, finally side by side screaming for the one team.

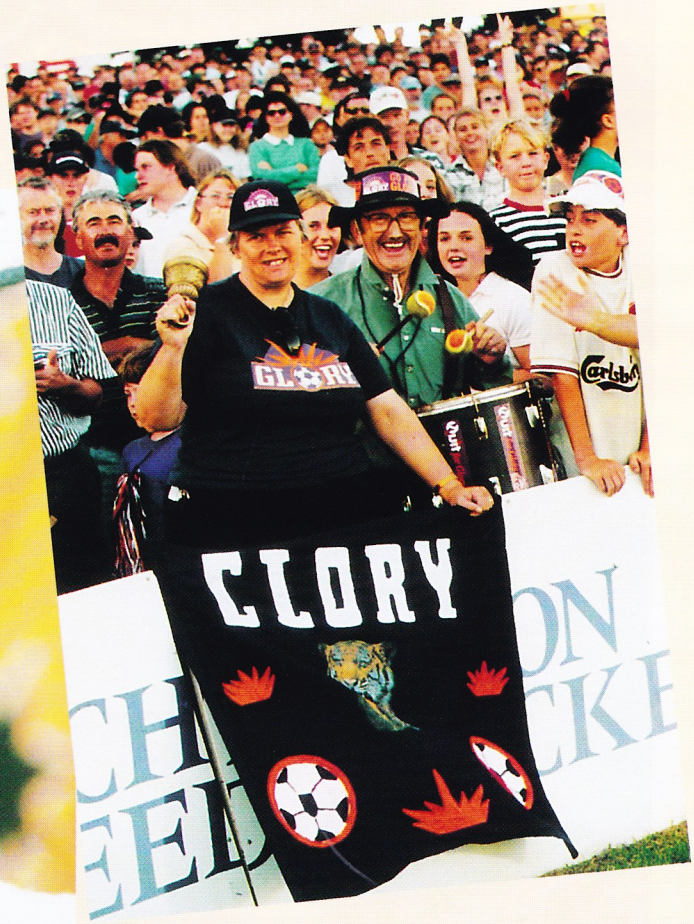
And yes they do scream, especially those that take up the regular residency on the Hill. All the familiar European football chants which have been adjusted accordingly, reverberate infectiously around the oval about 30 minutes before kick-off, but not before the throng of throats have been lubricated at a nearby hotel.

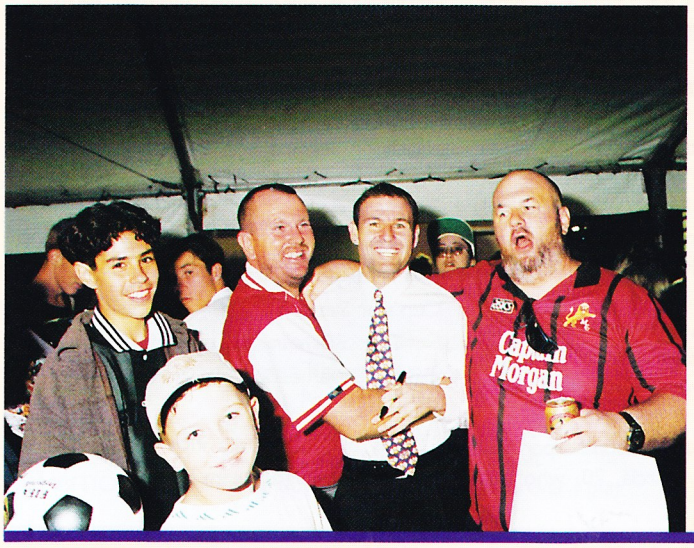
Former Melbourne Knights sweeper Vinko Buljubasic is a great fan of the Hill, and said one of the reasons for him remaining at Glory is because of the fantastic atmosphere. In fact, coach Gary Marocchi and most of the Glory players agreed that the inaugural season would not have been so successful if they had not received such a passionate backing. Even SA Chairman, David Hill, was once lured into meeting the mob on the Hill, whereby much to his delight they greeted him with a baptism of beer spray.

Perhaps as a tribute, the Hill should be named in his honour after raising the profile of Australian soccer to unprecedented heights, and for his strong lobbying of getting Perth into the national competition. Especially after 20 years of pleading which continually fell on deaf ears, because they most certainly can hear us now!

THE BEST FANS IN THE LAND

Glory


GLORY


Captain Morgan

NEW ST★RS

new players
1997/98

WELCOME TO GLORY...Enjoying the sponsorship night at Perth Oval are left to right - Ernie Tapai, Scott Halpin, Danny Hay, Tony Franken, Michael Garcia, James Afkos.

By Mel Moffat - of The West Australian

Perth Glory will take on a new look for the 1997-98 season. The Club has been so successful in signing several players with international experience and others who will be valuable investments for the future.

The Glory's major signing is little midfield maestro Ernie Tapai, 30, who has made over 50 appearances for the Socceroos.

Tapai was with Collingwood Warriors last season. His other clubs include Adelaide City, English side Stoke City and Estoril of Portugal. He showed in pre-season games that he will be a huge asset to the Glory.

New Zealand international centre back Danny Hay, 22, comes into the side after making a big impression for the Kiwis in World Cup qualifying matches in May and June.

Hay will link up in the Glory's backline with his New Zealand international team-mate Gavin Wilkinson. They showed in glam-our friendlies against Adelaide City and Brisbane Strikers in September that they have developed a keen understanding in defence.

Goalkeeper Tony Franken, 32, who has also played for Australia at senior level, is another big name addition to the team's line up.

Born in Fremantle, he moved East to join the Australian Institute of Sport in Canberra and later played for Sydney Croatia and UTS Olympic.

Another player with international experience is midfielder Michael Garcia, 20, who has made several appearances with the Young Socceroos. He is originally from WA and played as a junior with Kingsway Olympic. He joins the Glory from Canberra Cosmos.

James Afkos, 19, is another new face and a player with a big future.

The youngster, who can play midfield, attack or defence, was an important cog in the Floreat Athean side which won the WA Premier League title this year.

Just before going to press, the Glory was also lining up the transfer of Nigerian World Cup star Samson Siasia.

The 30-year-old midfield-striker has played 72 games for Nigeria and scored 24 goals.

His previous clubs include French side Nantes and Belgian team Lokeren.

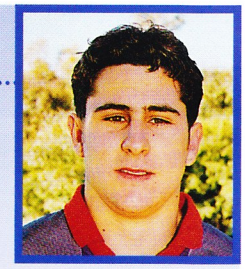
NEW ST★RS

new players
1997/98

ERNIE TAPAI

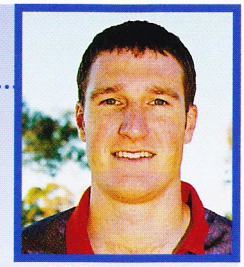
BIRTHPLACE: Yugoslavia
D.O.B.: 14/02/67
HEIGHT: 170cm
WEIGHT: 75kg
MARITAL STATUS: Married
OCCUPATION: Soccer Player
PREVIOUS CLUBS: Collingwood Warriors, Morwell Falcons
REP HONOURS: Senior Socceroos 1986-97
LIKES: Golf, Listening to music
AMBITION: Have two good seasons with Perth Glory

MICHAEL GARCIA



BIRTHPLACE: Perth
D.O.B.: 20/03/77
HEIGHT: 175cm
WEIGHT: 72kg
MARITAL STATUS: Single
OCCUPATION: Footballer
PREVIOUS CLUBS: Canberra Cosmos, AIS
REP HONOURS: WA State Team (Jnr), Young Socceroos
LIKES: Seafood, Rock music, The Simpsons
AMBITION: Work towards my peak ability

DANNY HAY

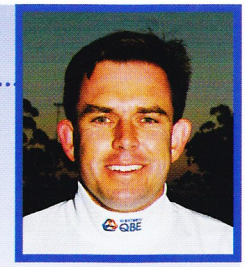


BIRTHPLACE: Auckland, NZ
D.O.B.: 15/05/75
HEIGHT: 190cm
WEIGHT: 88kg
MARITAL STATUS: Girlfriend in NZ
OCCUPATION: Soccer Player/Student
PREVIOUS CLUBS: Waitakere City (NZ), Central United (NZ)
REP HONOURS: NZ Olympic Squad, NZ All Whites
LIKES: Golf, University, Pasta
AMBITION: Play well for Perth Glory and win the championship

SCOTT HALPIN

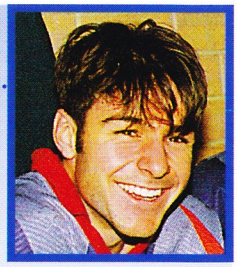
BIRTHPLACE: Newcastle, NSW
D.O.B.: 5/01/71
HEIGHT: 170cm
WEIGHT: 74kg
MARITAL STATUS: Single
OCCUPATION: Student
PREVIOUS CLUBS: Fremantle (WA State League), Hishfields (NSW State Legue)
REP HONOURS: NNSW State Team, NSW State Team, WA State Team, Aust. University Team
LIKES: Picnics, swimming, videos
AMBITION: To improve on my weak areas

TONY FRANKEN



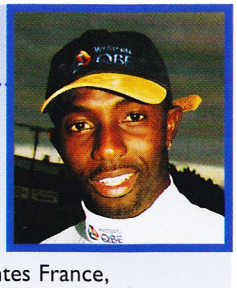
BIRTHPLACE: Fremantle
D.O.B.: 11/1/65
HEIGHT: 181cm
WEIGHT: 83kg
MARITAL STATUS: Married
OCCUPATION: Teacher
PREVIOUS CLUBS: Canberra City, Sydney Croatia, Parramatta Eagles, Leichhardt Apai, UTS Olympic
REP HONOURS: WA jnr, NSW State, Aust. Youth, Aust., Olympic U23, Socceroos
LIKES: Fishing, Golf
AMBITION: Play at a high consistent level

JAMES AFKOS



BIRTHPLACE: Perth
D.O.B.: 5/01/78
HEIGHT: 171cm
WEIGHT: 68kg
MARITAL STATUS: Single
OCCUPATION: Student
PREVIOUS CLUBS: Floreat Athena, Kingsway Olympic
REP HONOURS: Junior State U/11 to U/14, State Schoolboys
LIKES: Jetskiing
AMBITION: Play well for Glory and win the championship

SAMSON SIASIA



BIRTHPLACE: Lagos
D.O.B.: 14/08/67
HEIGHT: 180cm
WEIGHT: 72kg
MARITAL STATUS: Married
OCCUPATION: Professional Footballer
PREVIOUS CLUBS: Lokeren Belgium, Nantes France, Tiresen Portugal, Al-Hilal Saudi Arabia
REP HONOURS: Nigerian National Team (Super Eagles)
LIKES: Rice, Chicken, Movies, R&B music
AMBITION: Settle down with my family wherever I play

GLORY ON THE NET

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FIXTURES

ROUND 1: CARLTON v PERTH GLORY
Optus Oval, Saturday October 4, 3.00pm

	HALFTIME	FULLTIME
CARLTON	1	2
PERTH GLORY	1	1

ROUND 2: PERTH GLORY v ADELAIDE CITY
Perth Oval, Sunday October 12, 4.00pm

	HALFTIME	FULLTIME
PERTH GLORY	1	1
ADELAIDE CITY	1	4

ROUND 3: BRISBANE STRIKERS v PERTH GLORY
Suncorp Stadium, Saturday October 18, 7.00pm

	HALFTIME	FULLTIME
BRISBANE STRIKERS	0	0
PERTH GLORY	1	1

ROUND 4: PERTH GLORY v MELBOURNE KNIGHTS
Perth Oval, Sunday October 26, 4.00pm*

	HALFTIME	FULLTIME
PERTH GLORY		
MELBOURNE KNIGHTS		

ROUND 5: NEWCASTLE BREAKERS v PERTH GLORY
Topper Stadium, Friday October 31, 7.30pm

	HALFTIME	FULLTIME
NEWCASTLE BREAKERS		
PERTH GLORY		

ROUND 6: PERTH GLORY v UTS OLYMPIC
Perth Oval, Sunday November 9, 4.00pm*

	HALFTIME	FULLTIME
PERTH GLORY		
UTS OLYMPIC		

ROUND 7: MARCONI FAIRFIELD v PERTH GLORY
Marconi Stadium, Saturday November 15, 7.00pm

	HALFTIME	FULLTIME
MARCONI FAIRFIELD		
PERTH GLORY		

ROUND 8: PERTH GLORY v WEST ADELAIDE
Perth Oval, Sunday November 23, 4.00pm*

	HALFTIME	FULLTIME
PERTH GLORY		
WEST ADELAIDE		

ROUND 9: GIPPSLAND FALCONS v PERTH GLORY
Falcons Park, Sunday November 30, 6.00pm

	HALFTIME	FULLTIME
GIPPSLAND FALCONS		
PERTH GLORY		

ROUND 10: PERTH GLORY v SOUTH MELBOURNE
Perth Oval, Sunday December 7, 5.00pm

	HALFTIME	FULLTIME
PERTH GLORY		
SOUTH MELBOURNE		

ROUND 11: PERTH GLORY v WOLLONGONG CITY
Perth Oval, Sunday December 14, 5.00pm

	HALFTIME	FULLTIME
PERTH GLORY		
WOLLONGONG CITY		

ROUND 12: PERTH GLORY v CANBERRA COSMOS
Perth Oval, Sunday December 21, 5.00pm

	HALFTIME	FULLTIME
PERTH GLORY		
CANBERRA COSMOS		

ROUND 13: PERTH GLORY v SYDNEY UNITED
Perth Oval, Sunday December 28, 5.00pm

	HALFTIME	FULLTIME
PERTH GLORY		
SYDNEY UNITED		

ROUND 14: SYDNEY UNITED v PERTH GLORY
Parramatta Stadium, Friday January 2, 7.30pm*

	HALFTIME	FULLTIME
SYDNEY UNITED		
PERTH GLORY		

FIXTURES

ROUND 15: PERTH GLORY v CARLTON
Perth Oval, Sunday January 11, 5.00pm

PERTH GLORY
CARLTON

HALFTIME	FULLTIME

ROUND 16: ADELAIDE CITY v PERTH GLORY
Hindmarsh Stadium, Sunday January 18, 7.30pm

ADELAIDE CITY
PERTH GLORY

HALFTIME	FULLTIME

ROUND 17: PERTH GLORY v BRISBANE STRIKERS
Perth Oval, Sunday January 25, 5.00pm

PERTH GLORY
BRISBANE STRIKERS

HALFTIME	FULLTIME

ROUND 18: MELBOURNE KNIGHTS v PERTH GLORY
Knights Park, Sunday February 1, 6.00pm

MELBOURNE KNIGHTS
PERTH GLORY

HALFTIME	FULLTIME

ROUND 19: PERTH GLORY v NEWCASTLE BREAKERS
Perth Oval, Sunday February 22, 5.00pm

PERTH GLORY
NEWCASTLE BREAKERS

HALFTIME	FULLTIME

ROUND 20: UTS OLYMPIC v PERTH GLORY
Belmore Sporting Ground, Sunday March 1, 6.30pm

UTS OLYMPIC
PERTH GLORY

HALFTIME	FULLTIME

ROUND 21: PERTH GLORY v GIPPSLAND FALCONS
Perth Oval, Sunday March 8, 4.00pm*

PERTH GLORY
GIPPSLAND FALCONS

HALFTIME	FULLTIME

ROUND 22: WEST ADELAIDE v PERTH GLORY
Hindmarsh Stadium, Sunday March 15, 7.30pm*

WEST ADELAIDE
PERTH GLORY

HALFTIME	FULLTIME

ROUND 23: MARCONI FAIRFIELD v PERTH GLORY
Perth Oval, Sunday March 22, 4.00pm*

PERTH GLORY
MARCONI FAIRFIELD

HALFTIME	FULLTIME

ROUND 24: SOUTH MELBOURNE v PERTH GLORY
Bob Jane Stadium, Sunday March 29, 6.00pm

SOUTH MELBOURNE
PERTH GLORY

HALFTIME	FULLTIME

ROUND 25: WOLLONGONG CITY v PERTH GLORY
Brandon Park, Saturday April 4, 7.00pm

WOLLONGONG CITY
PERTH GLORY

HALFTIME	FULLTIME

ROUND 26: CANBERRA COSMOS v PERTH GLORY
Seiffert Oval, Sunday April 12, 7.00pm

CANBERRA COSMOS
PERTH GLORY

HALFTIME	FULLTIME

FINALS

*Changes to kick off times

Elimination Finals ..... v .... v .....

Semi Finals ..... v .... v .....

Preliminary Final ..... v .... v .....

Grand Final ..... v .....

ACTION APLENTY OFF FIELD

ENTERTAINING THE CROWD...Glory Man, Steve Armstrong, Fabulous Flirtettes.

Don't expect just 22 men and a white ball entertaining the huge and emotive crowds at the Perth Glory matches. Calinda Anderson, the Glory's Director of Entertainment, organised, through the vast resources of BBC Entertainment a season full of diverse acts and activities which kept the crowds happy and begging for more.

Perth sporting audiences had never before witnessed entertainment as that provided in the Glory's first year.

From the first game when over 50 children swarmed Perth Oval waving international flags in recognition of the culturally diverse nature of soccer and Western Australia, Glory spectators knew that they would be seeing more than just the players entertaining them. None of it would have been possible, Calinda says, without the support of the Perth Glory Board, in particular Nick Tana and Roger Lefort who were determined to provide the Glory supporters with the best entertainment possible. The crowd response was awesome and inspiring. The positive feedback meant that each week Calinda was more determined to give the crowd a bigger and better show.

At each home game Steve Armstrong entertained the masses pre-game and half time. He was definitely a crowd favourite, not only did Steve make each game an exciting and usually comical experience, he also adapted, composed, recorded and produced the now Perth Glory Anthem, "Glory Glory Perth Glory". Even though Steve has been in Australia for over 25 years, his birth place Manchester, UK, comes out in Steve with every game he watches, and can often be heard screaming and chanting louder than most others.

Aside from the pre-match and half time entertainment, a playground area for the smaller children was available at each and every game.

Some of the highlights through the year included a guest appearance for Marilyn Munro when she popped out of a huge candle and sang Happy Birthday for the Glory's 1st Birthday. Christmas was celebrated at Perth Oval with Father Christmas dropping out of the sky (via parachute) to the joyful applause from all the children, Father Christmas was later led around the pitch on a dog sled handing out bucketfuls of lollies.

The Easter Bunny usually makes an appearance at most people's Easter functions, but at the Glory Easter games Playboy bunnies also made an appearance. The bunnies tantalised supporters as they walked through the crowd giving out strawberry cream eggs. Calinda says that they have had a number of requests to have them back!

There was the time when Harleys and Cadillacs were driven onto the oval in a celebration Rock 'N Roll. Another theme was the Calypso Mardi Gras where 60 brightly coloured and costumed dancers entertained. Fifty bootscooters took to the field for the Harvey Fresh Hoedown game and the contents of a Chicken Treat pack were enlarged to larger than life characters and paraded around the perimeter handing out vouchers. Mr B and Glory Man were on hand to inspire the crowd.

With the tremendous success of Glory's first year the Board have not waned in their commitment to continue the great entertainment that helped contribute to make

CLOWNING AROUND...colourful entertainment was a feature at home games.

WALK AROUND...a Coke can and entertainer on stilts.

Perth Glory home games an entertaining and exciting afternoon out. Glory fans can expect to see bigger and better shows in their second year. Steve Armstrong will be back along with a host of WA's best performers.

The success of Perth Glory was summed up at the end of year ball, the MGP Awards, (Most Glorious Player), at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, where over 600 guests experienced a night of fine dining and world class entertainment and of course the announcement of the MGP award winner, Gavin Wilkinson. Calinda explained that she took great pleasure in seeing to every detail of this superb night. The response was overwhelming.

And what was that response?

"It was a truly glorious experience".

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ON THE ROAD TO GLORY

THE INVADERS...Perth Glory players alight from the bus at yet another of their eastern states stopovers.

By Mel Moffat - of The West Australian

It wasn't for nothing that a Sydney journalist tagged Perth Glory as the fittest team in the National Soccer League after a lung bursting display in the 2-0 away win over UTS Olympic last February.

Those who know coach Gary Marocchi have always been impressed with the fitness of all the teams he coached, whether at Perth Italia, the Perth Kangaroos or the State side.

Marocchi believes that hard work put in at the start of the season will stand to you at the end of the season.

It is a philosophy he has brought with him to the Glory. He did receive some criticism for an apparent training track burn-out when his side suffered a mid-season slump, but there is no doubt that the team was still going strong at the end of the season.

Marocchi is always working at keeping his players extra fit, alert and on their toes, even when they don't realise it. His methods are subtle at times. This becomes apparent when the Glory travels interstate. Road trips become just that – trips on the road.

There is no better way to loosen up after a long plane journey than a good stretching of the legs. And limbs start pumping just after the players drop off their gear at their hotel.

They are usually expected to walk to the next training ground, or public park if there's nothing better in the vicinity, and back again. A sneaky extra session.

In my experience on the road with the team in Sydney, it was a 12-minute stretch from the motel on Parramatta Road to a patch of green at Sydney University.

In Melbourne, it was another limb-loosener of about 10-15 minutes from the hotel on the edge of the city centre to one of the many parks bordering Optus Oval.

Come meal times, the shoe leather also got a going over. Good for the appetite on the way to the restaurant – and good for the digestion on the way back. Also excellent for the limbs.

Marocchi's Italian family upbringing presumably has nothing to do with the regular diet of pasta at lunch time on match days. No. It's a fact that Italy's favourite food is recommended for its carbohydrate-loading energy-providing qualities. Marathon runners swear by it.

Not all of the Glory's walking sessions have worked out as planned. The team got caught in a tropical downpour when halfway between hotel and restaurant in Brisbane. Pneumonia could have been a predictable outcome, but quick-thinking general manager Roger Lefort hailed a passing bus and, to the astonishment of the driver, the drenched players bounded on board.

"Sixteen to the next corner," Lefort said somewhat sheepishly.

It was the Brisbane Strikers that got a drenching the next night – a goal drenching as the Glory raced to a stunning 5-1 victory

Keep on walking.

ON TOUR...the players pose for a team photograph.

ON THE MARCH...the players limber up on one of their regular walks.

PERTH GLORY ANTHEM

We're in the dawning of a new age
With the birth of our new code
Yes we're basking in the Glory
With our colours they're so bold

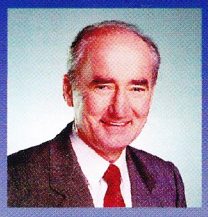
Our games a great tradition
Let the future now unfold
When the Perth Glory marches on

On to Perth Glory
On to Perth Glory
On to Perth Glory
Our team is marching on

Our boys will strike like lightning
On the goals we'll have a feast
Our defence will take all the blows
Of any savage beast

You'll hear the crowd roaring
And you'll know that we'll have won
When Perth Glory marches on

On to Perth Glory
On to Perth Glory
On to Perth Glory
Our team is marching on



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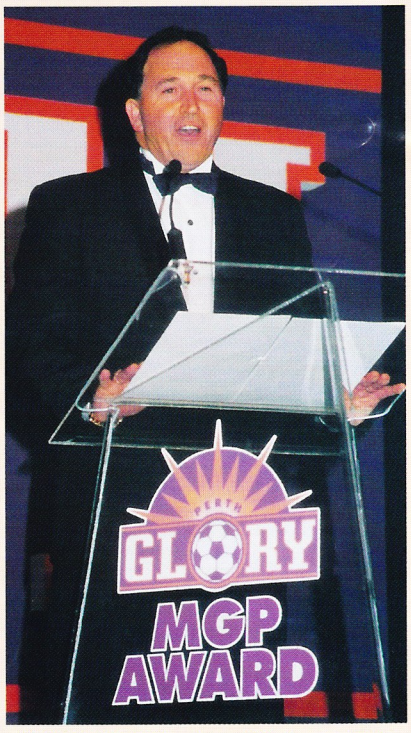
GLORIOUS BALL

GLORY HALLELUJAH...Steve Armstrong and the stunning Flirtettes are a hit on stage.

HAPPY GATHERING...the latest recruits for the infamous 'Hill'?

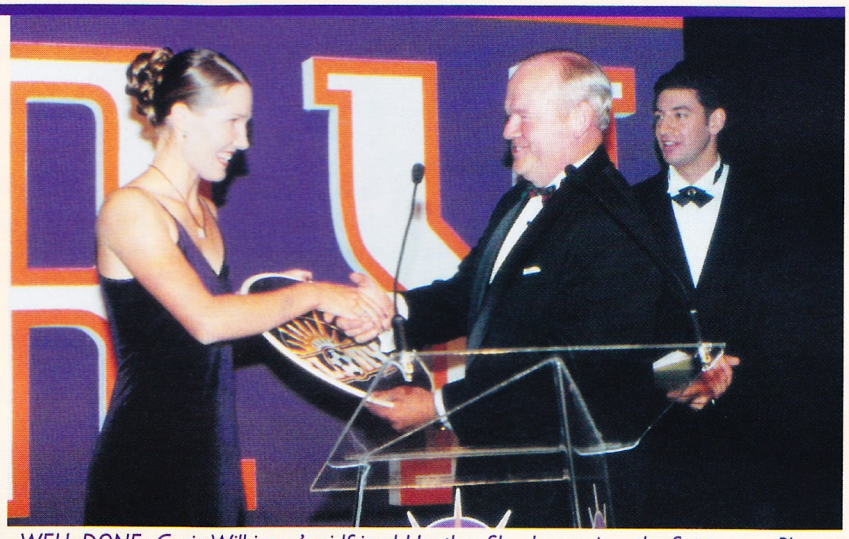
HANDY WORK...comedian Harry Houdidn't talks Debra Marocchi into giving him a hand!

TOP PRIZE...Most Glorious Player trophy, won by Gavin Wilkinson.



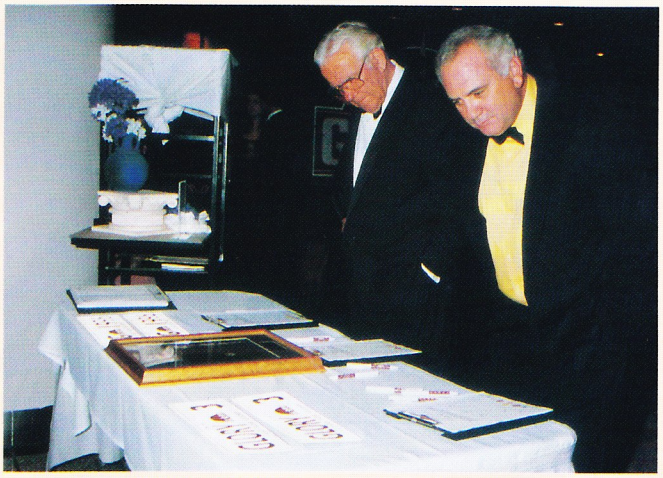
FROM THE TOP...a proud Chairman Nick Tana, reflects on a most glorious season.

There were many glamorous moments in the maiden year of Perth Glory and none more magnificent than the inaugural Ball at the Hyatt Regency Ballroom...



WELL DONE...Gavin Wilkinson's girlfriend Heather Shanks receives the Supporters Player of the Year Plate.

TOP BIDS...the autographed home and away shirts were sold for around $900 each in a silent auction.



WINNING NUMBERS...'GLORY 3' number plates brought a cool $3400, while 'PG 1996' went for $1600.

GRAND ENTRANCE...the players are introduced by the Flirtettes.

HONOURABLE RESPONSE...Minister for Sport and Recreation Norman Moore, praises the club on its amazing success.

GLORY HELPING KIDS

A basic change of the Glory philosophy is that the club is about more than soccer. While the game is of crucial importance, there is also a need to recognise the club's responsibilities in a social and community sense.

Glory wants to give something back to the community which has supported it. For this reason the club has adopted two charities to support overt the next 12 months.

The nominated charities are Princess Margaret Hospital and Heart Kids.

Princess Margaret Hospital for Children is recognised around the world as a centre for excellence in paediatrics. It is a reputation earned through the hard work and dedication of many people.

To the community of Perth, Princess Margaret Hospital is a beacon when a child is sick, offering the best in care and support for ill children.

One of the hospital's projects for 1997 is the Healing Through Happiness Fun Room, which aims to provide a fun room incorporating video games, a soft play area, a mini tennis court and outdoor games area and an entertainment auditorium.

This unique facility will help children get on the road to recovery faster.

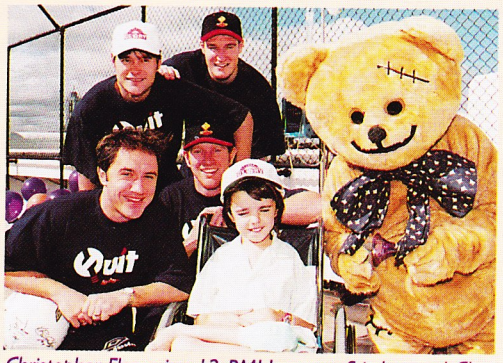
The other Glory charity for this year is Heart Kids – an organisation formed by families who have a child with a heart defect.

Parents in this situation feel worried, anxious and often isolated – thinking nobody else understands how they feel.

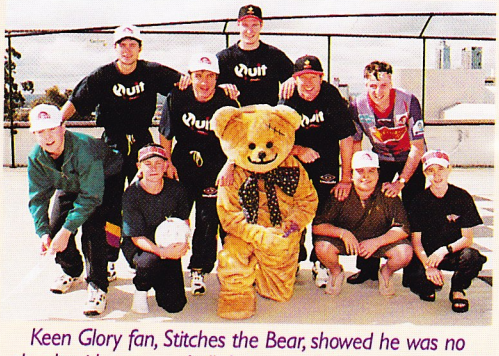
Heart Kids helps ease this isolation by putting families in touch with others who have experienced similar problems and also offers resources such as books, pamphlets, meetings, and someone to talk to.

Glory is proud to support such worthy groups and over the next 12 months each will receive:

- A home game allocated to assist with fundraising
- Players visits to help cheer up kids in need
- Autographed merchandise for organisations to auction or raffle
- Special invites to home games



Christopher Flemming, 12, PMH mascot Stitches and Glory players at the site of the new rooftop Stitches Fun Factory



Keen Glory fan, Stitches the Bear, showed he was no slouch with a soccer ball during a celebrity soccer match between the Glory and PMH patients.

Matthew Beilken, 12, cuts cake with Ernie Tapai at the launch of the association between PMH and Perth Glory

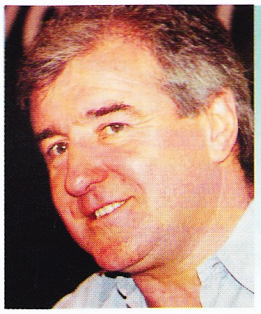
Alinta Reddingius, 8, from Leonora receives a special cheer from Gavin Wilkinson during a regular ward visit by Glory players.

NATIONAL VOICE

David Hill
"Without a doubt Perth Glory's first season in the Ericsson Cup was a terrific bonus for the code in Australia. At every level Perth Glory Soccer Club established itself as one of the leading outfits in the National Soccer League"

Neville Wran
"No-one could have imagined the success Perth Glory would achieve in their debut season in the Ericsson Cup. It is a credit to everyone at Glory that they had the highest attendance record last season."

George Negus
"The 1996/97 season for Perth Glory will long be remembered. A jam-packed stadium full of Glory supporters was a sight worth witnessing."



Terry Venables
"Perth Glory are an example to all teams in Australia. Perth Glory could well dominate the National League for years to come."

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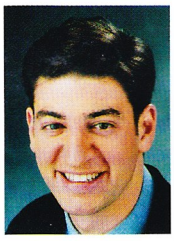
HOW THE MEDIA SAW IT



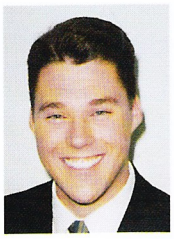
Well, what an amazing debut season, but then again was it really that amazing? We all know West Australians love winners and a quick population check tells us Western Australians love soccer as well.

Put the two together and you have Perth Glory's incredible formula for instant success. Congratulations to the Glory boys, they did the job out on the park and consequently brought the fans to the park. It's what WA sport had been waiting for, for so long.

Roll on '97/98 !!

Here we go, here we go, here we go...

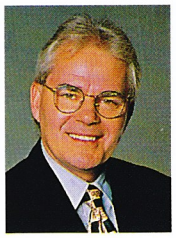
Basil Zempilas
Channel Seven



Perth burst onto the national stage with a passion and vibrancy that showed the way forward for the world game in this country. The competition's "new boys" gave the NSL's "elder statesmen" plenty to think about in their first year, finishing tantalisingly close to the playoffs.

If only the guts Gary Marocchi and his charges showed during the season had been rewarded with the appropriate finals glory. It's little wonder the team captured the imagination of Perth's sporting public. Now the challenge is to build on those foundations.

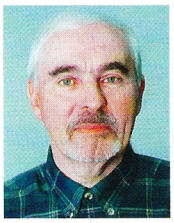
Clint Wheeldon
Channel Ten



Perth Glory are a breath of fresh air. Everything about them is new, everything about them is exciting. The marvellous concept, together with the extraordinary following they enjoy, is a benchmark for Australian soccer.

Our congratulations must also go to Vas Kalogeracos for scoring the SBS TV Goal of the Season.

Les Murray
SBS Television



Praise be to Glory. It was the most stunning debut season in the history of the NSL, lifting soccer to the forefront of sport, not only in Western Australia but in Australia as a whole.

The Glory was the talk of the nation. Everyone sat up and took notice, whether in Brisbane, Newcastle, Wollongong or even in sports-mad Melbourne.

Glory's owners deserve full marks for their vision in showing Australia how sport should be promoted.

Full marks also to the coaching staff for their brave and adventurous approach in adopting swashbuckling tactics - and sticking to them.

Mel Moffat
The West Australian

A terrific mix of competent management, visionary leadership, exciting players and a dream crowd that not even the best marketeer could have conjured up, combined to make the Perth Glory phenomenon real and exciting. The ability of this team to attract a broad base of popularity within the community generally and the opportunity for success to grow and continue, left me in no doubt whatever that it was time to embrace live broadcasts of Perth Glory matches on mainstream commercial radio.

George Grljusich, Basil Zempilas and Paul Wade can't wait to bring Perth listeners a new and innovative coverage in 97/98.

Shane Healy
Radio 6PR

I clearly remember the day I became hooked. The second of February this year, when I travelled east as part of the first news crew to follow the Glory to an away game, in this case against Sydney United.

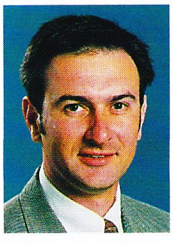
It's not the soccer that attracted me, but the special way the Glory boys made me feel part of their winning side. For me it was wondering why my lunch with the team tasted so spicy (they'd tipped a whole pepper shaker in my spaghetti), or maybe celebrating a win with the players not on the town, but in a cramped hotel room.

Look around the changeroom and you know they love what they do

David McGrath
Channel Nine

Perth Glory has made it easier for WA to understand why soccer is the world's number one sport. Every WA sporting team promises entertainment, but only Perth Glory guarantees a good sing-along !!

Ralph Jackman
ABC Radio



Unprecedented, unexpected, unrivalled...unreal !!!

David Lowden
Channel Seven

BOARD & MANAGEMENT

Top L-R: Tony Di Francesco, Director; Jim Davies Marketing, Consultant; Roger Lefort, General Manager; Paul Afkos, Deputy Chairman; Nick Tana, Chairman.

Foundation Board 1996/97

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WORLD CUP FULL CIRCLE

By George Pendreigh - of British Soccer Week

The founding of the football Association in 1863 is regarded as the birth of organised association football and for many years the FA was looked upon as a father figure as the sport spread through Europe.

The expansion was rapid and by late 1903 a need was seen for an international governing body and so, in 1904, in Paris, the *Federation Internationale de Football Association* (FIFA) was born.

The birth of FIFA also gave vision to an international tournament or competition open to all affiliated members and after years of frustration and hard work the Federation announced its plans to run a "World Cup".

FIFA nominated 1930 as the year for their inaugural World Cup and there were six applicants for the host nation. Five, however, withdrew for varying reasons, leaving Uruguay the sole entry and on July 13, in Montevideo, the World Cup began.

There have been 15 World Cup finals since and as each has gone by, the competition has grown.

In 1930 the tournament consisted of 13 teams. In 1995 170-plus countries lined up for the road to France, the XVI World Cup Finals.

In between there have been many moments to remember: Uruguay lifting the first; Italy winning in 1934; the first of three; Brazil; current holders and four-time winners in 1958, 1962, 1970 and 1994, and of course England's unbeaten run in 1966.

And what of the players: the striking power of West Germany's Gerd Muller and Just Fontaine of France. The brilliance of Brazil's Garrincha and a 17-year-old named Pele, who lit up the 1958 event in Stockholm, Sweden. The power of Portugal's "Black Pearl", Eusebio, and the skills of Diego Maradona.

Geoff Hurst's "goal" for England against West Germany in 1966, West German goalkeeper Harald Schumacher's blatant bone-crunching charge into French striker Patrick Battiston in 1982; Maradona's "Hand of God" goal against England in 1986 and his ultimate fall from grace in 1994, will they ever be forgotten?

But all of that has gone - France '98 waits just over the horizon.

For Pele, read Ronaldo; for Muller read Bieirhoff; for Hurst read Shearer.

Zola, Del Piero, Roberto Carlos, Djorkaeff, all and more will make their mark in the football venues of France to bring the 20th century curtain down on international association football championships.

What a century it has been. And it is deserving that what started in France will finish in France.

Full circle!

WORLD CUP FINALS

1930	Uruguay 4	Argentina 2
1934	Italy 2	Czechoslovakia 1
1938	Italy 4	Hungary 2
1950	Uruguay 2	Brazil 1
1954	West Germany 3	Hungary 2
1958	Brazil 5	Sweden 2
1962	Brazil 3	Czechoslovakia 1
1966	England 4	West Germany 2
1970	Brazil 4	Italy 1
1974	West Germany 2	Holland 1
1978	Argentina 3	Holland 1
1982	Italy 3	West Germany 1
1986	Argentina 3	West Germany 2
1990	West Germany 1	Argentina 0
1994	Brazil 0	Italy 0

(Brazil won 3-2 on pens)

VISITING STAR... Paul Afkos presents 1966 World Cup star Alan Ball with a Glory momento.

CONTROVERSY... World Cup Final 1966, Wembley Stadium - Geoff Hurst's 'goal' - or was it?

1998 FIFA World Cup Schedule

Final Round

	Round of 16						Quarter Final				Semi Finals				Final 3&4	Final 1&2
	sat 27/6	sun 28/6	mon 29/6	tue 30/6	wed 1/7	thur 2/7	fri 3/7	sat 4/7	sun 5/7	mon 6/7	tue 7/7	wed 8/7	thur 9/7	fri 10/7	sat 11/7	sun 12/7
Paris St Denis		1D v 2C =4					2 v 3 =B					B v D =D2				**1D1 v 1D2**
Paris Parc Des Princes	1A v 2B =1														**2D1 v 2D2**	
Paris St Denis		1C v 2D =3														
Lyons Gerland Stadium								6 v 7 =D								
Saint Etienne Geoffroy Guichard Stadium				1H v 2G =8												
Marseille Velodrome Stadium	1B v 2A =2							5 v 8 =C			A v C =D1					
Montpellier Mosson Stadium		1F v 2E =6														
Toulouse Municipal Stadium		1E v 2F =5														
Bordeaux Lescure Park				1G v 2H =7												
Nantes Beaujoire Stadium							1 v 4 =A									

INTERNET ADDRESSES 1998 FIFA WORLD CUP SCHEDULE

FIRST ROUND http://www.fifa.com.france98/wc98.first-round.html FINAL ROUND http://www.fifa.com.france98/wc98.final-round.html

WORLD CUP HISTORY

Australia played their first full international against New Zealand on June 17, 1922. It resulted in a 1-3 defeat, although just over a year later we defeated the same side 2-1 to secure our first international win. It wasn't until 1965 that Australia played in their first World Cup campaign.

1966 CAMPAIGN

Australia had to play just two games to qualify for the 1966 finals tournament in England. The first took place in Phnom Penh against North Korea in which Australia lost 6-1. Captain Les Scheinflug scored from the penalty spot in the 70th minute. The second match saw Australia lose 1-3.

National coach: Tijo Jelisavic

1970 CAMPAIGN

Japan, South Korea and Australia had to play each other twice in a round robin group format in Seoul (Korea).

Australia defeated Japan 3-1 in the opening game, but drew the return match 1-all. If South Korea gained a victory over Japan, it meant they could overtake Australia by winning their final match.

South Korea took the lead against Australia but a Ray Baatz goal saw the game end 1-1.

Against their next qualifying opponent, Rhodesia, Australia drew the first match 1-1 and the second finished 0-0. Australia won the third and deciding game 3-1.

Australia now had to face Israel in the final eliminator. Aussie keeper Ron Corry was beaten after 18 minutes when a free kick deflected off David Zeman and into the net.

Israel headed to Australia with just the one goal advantage.

December 14, 1969 and the Sydney Sports Ground fixture (SSG) resulted in a 1-1 draw. Australia were out of the World Cup.

National Coach: Joe Vlastis

1974 CAMPAIGN (See special feature)

1978 CAMPAIGN

Australia had to face New Zealand and Taiwan in the Oceania Group, the winner going on to a tournament with the four Asian Group winners.

The results went as follows:

Sinra (Fiji), March 13, 1977 – Australia 3 (Rooney 2, Abonyi) Taiwan

Sinra (Fiji), March 16, 1977 – Taiwan 1 Australia 2(Kosmina,Abonyi)

SSG, March 27, 1977 – Australia 3 (Ollerton 2, Kosmina) New Zealand 1

Auckland (NZ), March 30, 1977 – New Zealand 1 Australia 1 (Ollerton)

Australia now had to face Hong Kong, South Korea, Iran and Kuwait.

Adelaide, July 10, 1977 – Australia 3 (Kosmina 2, Barnes) Hong Kong 0

Melbourne, August 14, 1977 – Australia 0 Iran 1

Sydney, August 28, 1977 – Australia 2 (Kosmina 2) South Korea 1

Sydney, October 16, 1977 – Australia 1 (Rooney) Kuwait 2

Seoul, October 23, 1977 – South Korea 0 Australia 0

Hong Kong, October 13, 1977 – Hong Kong 2 Australia 5 (Ollerton 3, Abonyi, Bennett)

Kuwait, November 19, 1977 – Kuwait 1 Australia 0

Tehran, November 25, 1977 – Iran 1 Australia 0

National coach: Jim Shoulder

1982 CAMPAIGN

The Australian side were extremely well prepared but, again, just missed out on qualifying for the World Cup Finals.

Auckland, April 25, 1981 – New Zealand 3 Australia 3 (Krncevic 2, Boden)

Sydney, May 16, 1981 – Australia 0 New Zealand 2*

Melbourne, May 20, 1981 – Australia 2 (Kosmina, Boden) Indonesia 0

Adelaide, June 10, 1981 – Australia 3 (Henderson, Kosmina, Byrne) Taiwan 2

Suva, July 26, 1981 – Fiji 1 Australia 4 (Cole 2, Shame, Barnes)

Melbourne, August 14, 1981 – Australia 10 (Cole 7, Mitchell 3) Fiji 0

Surabaya, August 30, 1981 – Indonesia 1 Australia 0

Taiwan, September 6, 1981 – Taiwan 0 Australia 0 – *It was the first time in 27 years that Australia had lost at home to the Kiwis. Rudi Gutendorf resigned as National coach and Les Scheinflug was made the caretaker coach for the remainder of the year.

National coach: Rudi Gutendorf/Les Scheinflug

1986 CAMPAIGN

Frank Arok took charge of the national side and it proved to be a long campaign trail with the final qualifier being a home and away affair with the aggregate score deciding the winner.

Auckland, September 21, 1985 – New Zealand 0 Australia 0 14,826

Tel Aviv, October 10, 1985 – Israel 1 Australia 2 (Mitchell, Kosmina) 45,000

Melbourne, October 20, 1985 - Australia 1 (Ratcliffe) Israel 1 27,000

Adelaide, October 23, 1985 – Australia 7(Mitchell 3, Dunn 2, O'Connor, Arnold) Taipei

Sydney, October 27, 1985 – Australia 8 (Odzakov 3, Kosmina 3, Crino, Gray) Taipei 0

Sydney, November 3, 1985 – Australia 2 (Kosmina, Mitchell) New Zealand 0

Australia qualified and went on to meet Scotland in the final decider.

Glasgow, November 20, 1985 – Scotland 2 Australia 0

Melbourne, December 4, 1985 – Australia 0 Scotland 0

Scotland qualified for the World Cup.

National coach: Frank Arok

1990 CAMPAIGN

Once again Australia would meet New Zealand and Israel in the qualifying tournament.

Sydney, March 12, 1989 – Australia 4 (Crino, Arnold, Yankos) New Zealand 1

Tel Aviv, March 19, 1989 – Israel 1 Australia 1 (Yankos)

Auckland, April 2, 1989 – New Zealand 2 Australia 0

Sydney, April 16, 1989 – Australia 1 (Trimboli) Israel 1

National coach: Frank Arok

1994 CAMPAIGN

Australia had to beat Argentina to qualify for the 1994 World Cup.

Honiara, September 4, 1993 – Soloman Islands 1 Australia 2 (Veart, McCulloch)

Papeete, September 11, 1993 – Tahiti 0 Australia 3 (Mori, Veart, Wade)

Brisbane, September 20, 1993 – Australia 2 (Veart, Durakovic) Tahiti 0

Newcastle, September 26, 1993 – Australia 6 (Genc, Gray, Wade, Veart, G Brown, Durakovic) Soloman Islands 0

Auckland, May 30, 1994 – New Zealand 0 Australia 1 (Arnold)

Now it was the turn of Canada, winners of the CONCACAF group.

Edmonton, July 31, 1994 – Canada 2 Australia 1 (Dasovic og)

Sydney, August 15, 1994 – Australia 2 (Farina, Durakovic) Canada 1

(Australia eventually won 4-1 on penalties: Wade, A Vidmar, Tobin, Farina)

Argentina

Sydney, October 31, 1994 – Australia 1 (A.Vidmar) Argentina 1(Balbo)

Buenos Aires, November 17, 1994 – Argentina 1 (Tobin og) Australia 0

Argentina progressed to the competition proper by the aggregate score of two goals to one.

National coach: Eddie Thomson

Terry Venables and Raul Blanco open a new chapter in Australian soccer as the Socceroos attempt to reach the finals in France, 1998.

OCEANIA/ASIA PLAY-OFFS

Oceania winner (Australia) versus fourth best Asian team (home and away).

Dates are: November 22, (away)
November 29, (MCG Melbourne, VIC)

— OCEANIA GROUP ONE —

Socceroos	13	Solomons	0
Socceroos	5	Tahiti	0
Solomon Is	4	Tahiti	1
Solomons	2	Socceroos	6
Tahiti	0	Socceroos	2
Tahiti	1	Solomon	1

Final Standings	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Socceroos	4	4	0	0	26	2	12
Solomons	4	1	1	2	7	21	4
Tahiti	4	0	1	3	2	12	1

— OCEANIA GROUP TWO —

PNG	1	New Zealand	0
Fiji	0	New Zealand	1
New Zealand	7	PNG	0
Fiji	3	PNG	1
New Zealand	5	Fiji	0
PNG	0	Fiji	1

Final Standings	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
New Zealand	4	3	0	1	13	1	9
Fiji	4	2	0	2	4	7	6
PNG	4	1	0	3	2	11	3

— FIXTURES —

June 28	New Zealand 0 v Australia 3
July 5	Australia 2 v New Zealand 0

THE 1974 WORLD CUP

By Greg Blake

Australian soccer historians have waited in vain for twenty-three years to write a follow-up chapter to what is still the high water mark for the game in this country.

The Labor government under Gough Whitlam was just commencing its slide into spectacular oblivion. Mohammed Ali was on the verge of re-claiming his world heavy-weight boxing crown; the Berlin Wall stood as silent testament to the Cold War between east and west; the disbanded Beatles were still taking each other to court; all sporting ties with South Africa had been severed and Nelson Mandela had long been a political prisoner.

Aurelio Vidmar was just seven years of age, Mark Bosnich had just learned to walk when the Socceroos of the time sparked the interest of a whole new generation of sports fans who were more used to watching the black and white television images of Manchester United's Denis Law, Peter Lorimer of Leeds United or, perhaps, a vibrant, newly-promoted Queens Park Rangers team captained by Terry Venables.

Australia had made the World Cup Finals in West Germany. All at once our heroes had names like: Aston, Richards, Ollerton, Warren and Reilly and despite the incredulous disdain of world soccer heavy-weights - one Scottish publication of the time said our mix of mostly overseas-born players had: "no right to call itself remotely Australian" - we held our heads high.

Should Venables lead Australia to France and moderate or better success in 1998, the deeds of the current team would still be hard pressed to recapture the romance of that glorious journey that started back in Auckland, New Zealand, in 1973.

Some eleven qualifying matches were to follow before Jimmy Mackay scored what was to be a never-to-be-forgotten winner in the final game against South Korea in Hong Kong.

The glory road had its share of potential black spots, starting when Australia had drawn 1-1 in NZ, to start the campaign, only thanks to a late equaliser from substitute Ernie Campbell.

The qualifying series then headed to Australia where the Kiwis and Aussies were joined by Iraq and Indonesia, with player of the series Ray Richards producing a stunning game to help the Aussies beat Iraq 3-1 in Sydney to set the ball rolling.

The Socceroos then beat Indonesia 2-1 before drawing 3-3 with the Kiwis in successive games in Sydney, draw 0-0 with Iraq in Melbourne and thrashed Indonesia 6-0 back in Sydney.

SOCCEROO LEGEND... Johnny Warren played a major role in reaching the 1974 World Cup finals.

The first phase completed, Australia faced Iran, another Asian sub-group winner, home and away and despite a 3-0 success in front of over 30,000 fans in the Sydney leg, the journey to Tehran could so easily have signaled an Aussie exit.

Two goals in the opening 25-minutes stunned the Aussies, but the grit of Rasic's team was never more apparent than over the ensuing 65 minutes as the Socceroos held out against Iran and 80,000 parochial fans.

That set the stage for the final act in the drama, when the Aussies took on a Korean team fresh off a stunning knock-out of the mighty Israel in their sub-group.

Over 32,000 fans watched the Aussies goal-less draw with Korea at the Sydney Sports Ground before more heroics in the return leg in Seoul, when Australia again went two goals down inside 30-minutes only for Branko Buljevic - with a superb strike - a and Ray Baartz to tie the game up and send it to a final play-off.

Seventy minutes into that final qualifier Jimmy Mackay became a legend.

His single goal was so grand, so stunning that it made the list of the eight goals of the year in the prestigious Rothmans Football Annual.

Mackay's effort impacted around the world.

Ray Richards won a free kick. Jim Rooney stuck the ball out to me and I hit it from about 30 yards," recalled Mackay. "It was the best goal of my career but I didn't realise until half an hour after the game what had happened. It was a great feeling". Team mate Manfred Schaefer, a veteran of the unlucky 1970 Socceroo team, says the party didn't stop for days. "We all knew right there and then that we had qualified for the World Cup finals in Germany," remembers Schaefer. It mattered little that Australia failed to score in their three games in the finals. They were in the toughest group. The losses to East Germany (2-0) and West Germany (3-0) and the scoreless draw with Chile saw Rasic's team exceed expectations.

Here is a complete list of the Australian 1974 World Cup Team: Jack Reilly, Jimmy Milisavljevic, Allan Maher, Peter Wilson, John Watkiss, Harry Williams, Manfred Schaefer, Col Curran, Doug Utjesenovic, John Warren, Jim Rooney, Jimmy MacKay, David Harding, Ray Richards, Gary Manuel, Ernie Campbell, Adrian Alston, Attila Abonyi, Peter Ollerton, Max Tolson, Branko Buljevic, Ivo Rudic, Ray Baartz, Jim Fraser and Ron Corry.

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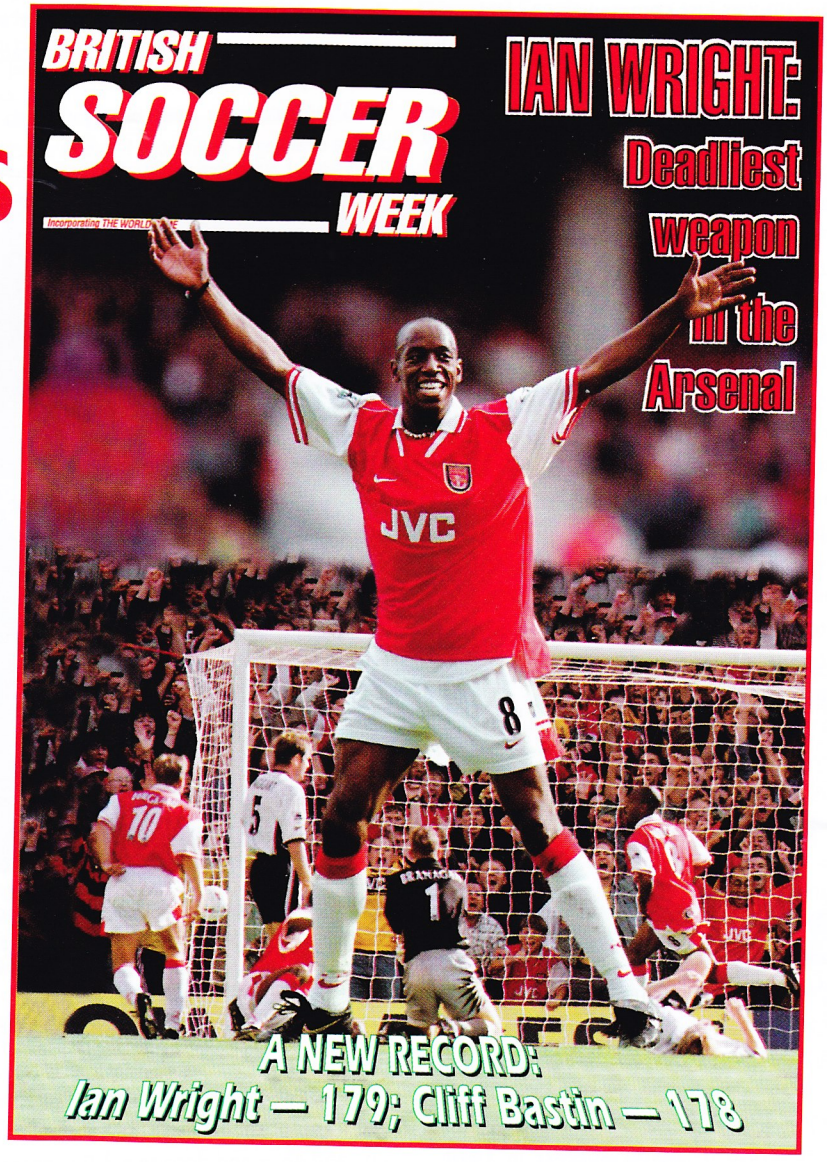

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INTERNATIONAL APPEARANCES

AS AT DECEMBER 31, 1996

(TOTAL APPEARANCES)

Top Ten

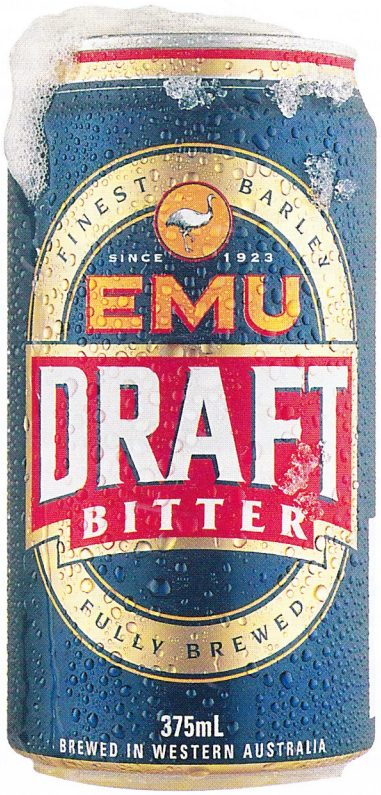
	App.	
1	161	Peter Wilkinson
2	121	Paul Wade
3	104	John Kosmina
4	102	Jimmy Rooney
5	92	Charlie Yankos
6	90	Attila Abonyi
7	86	Alex Tobin
8	84	Graham Jennings
9	79	Alan Davidson
10	77	Frank Farina

Others

App.	
74	Manfred Schaefer
63	Johnny Warren
58	Milan Ivanovic
42	Robert Zabica
39	Robbie Dunn
33	Ernie Tapai
25	Ken Boden
22	Stan Lazaridis
21	Anthony Franken
17	Alistair Edwards
13	Arno Bertogna
12	Les Scheinflug

App.	
9	John Coyne
8	Jimmy Pearson
8	Mark Bosnich
5	Ray Ilott
5	Dave Jones
4	Ron Adair
3	John Spanos
1	Sauro Iozelli
1	Mike Ireson
1	Don West
1	Theo Paap
1	Doug Stewart

The POWER behind the Glory



AN INGLORIOUS STRUGGLE

PLAYING DAYS...Gary Marocchi (Adelaide City) attacks the St. George goal in the 1979 Philips League Cup Final.

By Richard Kreider

It's no secret; Western Australia boasts a proud tradition for producing unique athletes despite its geographic seclusion to the rest of the world. Names like cricketers Dennis Lillee, Rodney Marsh and Terry Alderman, hockey stars Sharon Buchanan and Ric Charlesworth, Wheelchair Olympian Louis Sauvage, athletes Herb Elliott, Decima Norman and Shirley Strickland, Australian Rules heroes Graham 'Polly' Farmer and Barry Cable, swimmers Neil Brooks and Shelley Taylor-Smith, Ten-Pin bowling star Carol Gianotti, Billiards supremo Walter Lindrum and Luc Longley of basketball fame.

There has also been some excellent soccer talent seen in the West, but the difference however, is that many of those early champions were born in countries that possess a proud and passionate football culture.

Alec 'Sandy' Marr, Jack Conduit, Ron Adair, Jack Smethurst, John McInroy, Con Purser, Miro Ulehla, Max Lucchesi, John O'Connell, Stephen Sceats, Theo Paap, Sandra Brentnall, and WA born Anna Senjuschenko, Gary Marocchi and Gary Mateljan to name a few of the many that have laid the foundation for what the game is today.

Organised soccer began in Perth in May 1896 through soccer keen lawyers and public servants that were brought up in a British public school environment. After World War II, the once predominantly British influx changed to include European migrants from Italy, Greece, Holland, Poland and the sensitive regions of Yugoslavia.

Australian soccer then became more of a working class, nationalistic sport with each club consisting of a single ethnicity; where games would sometimes turn into mini-battlefields; the instigators being a few politically minded spectators that had a total disregard for the sport at hand.

Only now, since these 'New Australians' became fathers, and the protege birthplace would presumably have a stronger influence than their parents' heritage, has soccer started to swing toward a positive and exciting new tangent.

The decision by Soccer Australia to remove both ethnic club names in 1992, and nationalistic emblems in 1996 would have also received a stamp of approval from mainstream Australians. Consequently, waking the so-called 'sleeping giant' has never been easy in this sports crazed nation, where Australian Rules football and cricket are passionately supported, on top of an equally sizeable following for other sports like basketball, rugby and baseball.

Enter Perth Glory, a truly West Australian club with players of varied nationalities, and passionately supported by the same. But it had been a road full of potholes and barricades for Perth in their endeavours in being part of Australia's premier soccer competition. It's common knowledge these obstacles had been there even before the competition kicked-off in 1977, they include the cost of air travel of course, and the likelihood of players missing a day from work through actual flying time. In 1976, the Soccer Federation of WA President John Venn, was doing everything in his power to have WA participate, but his pleas continually fell on deaf ears.

"1976, with its National League decisions, was one of my main reasons for seeking another term as President. There is no doubt in my mind as to the eventual success of our National League, and the importance of ensuring that WA must be represented. Unfortunately, we were not accepted in the inaugural 1977 competition because of the enormous air fare costs in sending a team from WA. WA must compete in this competition and already talks are in progress to reduce air fares, so our fight to gain entry must continue before other obstacles other than money develop".

This article was written by Venn for the 1977 SFWA year book. And there was a similar remark from the president in the

ensuing year's publication.

"An important step forward was made by the Australian Soccer Federation in the formation of the Philips Soccer League in 1977.

Like any inaugural competition, there were problems, but as predicted, those areas outside the two densely populated states of Australia have proven their clubs, players and spectators are capable of holding their position in this league with its increased spectator appeal. "Unfortunately, Western Australia did not compete in this first ever National competition, due to lack of finance available to the Federation for air travel."

We did, however, see an exodus of our better players into clubs in the Philips League, and will continue to experience frustration until we gain entry ourselves into this very important competition.

"Gary Marocchi and David Jones were just two of the players who left to seek a higher standard of football, and they are to be congratulated for their acceptance into the Socceroos World Cup squad".

David Jones made five appearances for Australia, while Gary had a total of 13.

The 1978 SFWA Yearbook also contained an article from Brian Le Fevre, General Secretary of the Australian Soccer Federation, who actually gave WA an invitation - albeit with the ultimatum that they must perform well in the Philips Soccer Cup before being considered.

"Last year was a disappointment to your Federation, particularly as a team from Western Australia was not participating in the inaugural season of the Philips Soccer League of Australia. It is everyone's wish that in the long term, Western Australia will be in a position to participate in the national competition. "The first opportunity will come with the Philips Soccer Cup, the first rounds of which will be played in May this year. Western Australia must nominate a strong team and do well in this competition in order to gain public following, which may lead to the backing of a large corporation in Western Australia as sponsor of a team to participate in the Philips Soccer League of Australia".

The first team to represent WA in the Philips Cup was Ascot who earned the right after clinching the Ampol Night Series Cup. Played on the stamp-sized pitch of the Lake Monger Velodrome, the eventual National League champions West Adelaide Hellas were too good for a depleted Ascot side that were beaten 4-1. And with that loss presumably went the West's chances of any National League commitments in the near future, despite WA being able to remain in the knock-out competition. The state games in the late 70's early 80's against quality overseas visitors received a poor response from the public, which would not have added to the cause.

In 1980, Spearwood Dalmatinac produced the first upset for a WA team in the Philips Cup when they downed West Adelaide 3-1. In the next round at Hindmarsh Stadium in South Australia, Spearwood defeated Woodville Beograd with a hat-trick from Dave Fidoe, but in the quarter-finals they were beaten by Rale Rasic's Adelaide City with the only goal coming 10 minutes into extra-time.

In 1981, league champions Kingsway Olympic took on Adelaide City but once more a South Australian club emerged triumphant, 5-1.

Five years later, the West was back again where Macedonia Park in Albert Street Balcatta was officially opened with a game between Stirling Macedonia and Adelaide City who were vying for the Nanda Cup. The evenly matched encounter eventually went to penalties with the visitors triumphant, 6-5.

In 1987, a State Government Soccer Task Force report was produced to take the WA game into the next millennium with a radically re-vamped semi-professional super league competition and administration arrangement, but it was surprisingly shunned by most of the SFWA clubs and thrown out; reportedly through fear of losing control, despite the offer of $5 million from the Premier Brian Burke towards an indoor stadium complex called 'Soccer City'.

The following year, three Italian backed clubs; East Fremantle Tricolore, Perth Azzurri and Balcatta Etna merged to become Perth Italia Soccer Club with the home ground being Azzurri's Dorrien Gardens. One of the main reasons for the merger was to eventually place the club in the National League.

A draft report produced by Ernst & Young in October 1990 looked at the viability of a Perth team playing in the NSL, and it stated that the entry of a Perth based team was workable providing the eventual owners met the overall objectives and addressed the many variables such as venue, player contracts and travel arrangements.

Three of the main players behind the NSL blueprint were Nick Tana, Vince Carlino and the late 'Bill' Burelli. Their research provided them with a break-even figure of 5,000 paying spectators at $8 per adult to get them into the NSL, and remain there.

But their dreams failed to become a reality and Italia were compelled to concentrate just on the local scene where they went on to win plenty of honours, and produce plenty of successful young athletes like goalkeeper Vince Matassa, midfield wizard Anthony Carbone, Marc and Dale Wingell and Vas Kalogeracos. They have also seen twins Gareth and Craig Naven, Scott Miller, striker Paul Strudwick and 'keeper Tom Maras at Dorrien Gardens during their golden years. Later in 1996, these players all came together to form the nucleus of the Perth Glory squad in their inaugural season in the National League competition.

PERTH GOES FOR GLORY

SEAL OF APPROVAL...Premier Richard Court congratulates Nick Tana and Paul Afkos at the launch inside the Burswood Dome.

By Richard Kreider

The official launch of Perth's first National League team came at a lavish function inside the Burswood Dome on December 1, 1995, where the unique name Perth Glory was revealed for the first time.

In attendance was the WA Premier Richard Court, Soccer Australia dignitaries David Hill and Neville Wran, and national coaches Eddie Thomson and Les Scheinflug.

The launch was impressive enough for SA chairman David Hill to make the bold prediction that Perth Glory would do as much for Australian soccer as the West Coast Eagles and Fremantle Dockers has done for the AFL.

The media, who after years of treating the world game as nothing more than a minor sport, were now starting to show more than a fleeting interest. Perhaps the winds of change had come about when it was evident the Perth Glory organisation would be devoid of any particular nationalistic bent.

This sensitive and age-long issue in Australian soccer was brought to a head by Perth Glory General Manager Roger Lefort at the Burswood launch, when he assured everyone that one of the club's primary objectives was to unite West Australian people through a shared passion for soccer, while moving away from the traditional European path that most other NSL clubs had followed.

Even the club colours of sunburst orange and purple had demonstrated a distinctive and innovative approach.

It came as no surprise to anyone that Gary Marocchi would be the first coach, despite a spirited response world-wide, to the advertised vacancy. But while choosing a coach may have been simple, it certainly wasn't the case when it came to securing quality players from the eastern states and overseas to complement a raw yet talented band of local signings.

Once again, Perth's location to the rest of Australia was having a detrimental effect in enticing players to join. But the Glory connections need not have worried because as history has now shown, it was a glorious first season, one that far exceeded everyone's wildest expectations.

But before the history making first round fixture on October 13, Marocchi was given nine months to put together a squad that would soon be taking on Australia's best, after Soccer Australia Chairman David Hill enticed the Perth club into entering the competition a season earlier than planned.

The first hit-out for the Glory was at Kingsway Reserve on the morning of January 14, 1996 against Olympic Kingsway. The Kingsway club had 15 names on the match card, compared to just 11 for the Glory: Mike Harkness, Jamie Afkos, Alan Armstrong, Carlos Rodriguez, Scott Clissold, Gary Lee, Gareth Naven, Steve Bourne, Peter Murphy, Joe Vaz and Robin Dyers, a tall South African striker from the Kaiser Chiefs club.

Played before a surprisingly large crowd of around 500, and despite the absence of substitutes, Perth defeated the premier league club 6-2 with two goals from defender Armstrong in the 3rd and 20th minute, Bourne (7), Dyers (32), Murphy (34) and Gareth Naven (the only player from the first game to feature in the first season of the Ericsson Cup), netted the sixth goal two minutes after the interval.

For the visitors, Ivica Markovic scored a 75th minute penalty, while Andy Mason drilled home a stunning 20 metre strike

four minutes from full-time.

The next friendly was played a week later at Bayswater Oval against the Bayswater City Panthers. This time the Perth side had five substitutes compared to Bayswater's 10! Perth was again victorious, 4-1 before another healthy attendance of over 600 people.

There was a crowd of 2,500 at Fremantle Oval the following Saturday evening to see the Glory take on a President's XI in a benefit match for the family of PSF administrator Joe Faria who had been killed in a road accident. Prior to the evening kick-off, the teams were introduced to 1966 World Cup final hat-trick hero Geoff Hurst, who was in town for the 30th anniversary of England's 4-2 victory against West Germany at Wembley. The result was a 4-0 triumph to a Glory side who were still yet to be fully extended. In the team making his debut, was 21 year old Abdul Kamara, a stocky midfielder whose previous claim to fame was a first-half appearance for English Division Three side Gillingham against Brentford in 1994. Despite looking sharp in the match, Marocchi played Kamara in only another three outings before releasing him to Stirling Macedonia in the local Premier League.

Following further successes against Perth SC and Inglewood Falcons, the National League newcomers were given their most solid workout to date on Saturday 24 February at Dorrien Gardens, where they took on Japanese J-League side Cerezo Osaka who were in town on a pre-season training camp.

A crowd of some 1800 saw the only goal of the game come from the visitors in the 14th minute when Yamahashi finished off a perfect ball from Brazilian striker Marquinhos who punished a defensive blunder with great effect.

After a 4-1 win against Singapore team Woodlands at Bayswater Oval on April 6, and more successful sparring encounters with local Premier League clubs and the Amateur Association state representative side, Marocchi then prepared his charges for the titanic clash with Italian Serie-A giants Sampdoria at the WACA on May 31. Although the visitors were too strong, winning 3-0 thanks to a sensational two goal performance from their skipper Roberto Mancini, the Glory were far from humbled on a wet night that still managed to attract 10,000 people. The Naven twins, Alan MacKenzie and Scott Miller were the pick of Perth's best.

'Perth Glory will be the nerve centre of soccer in Australia'

David Hill
Chairman, 1995

'The entry of a Western Australian based team into the national soccer competition will be met by the enthusiastic support of many thousands of soccer fans throughout the nation and will create opportunities for our talented young players to fulfil their potential in the world's biggest international sporting arena.'

Richard Court MLA
Premier of Western Australia, 1996

'What has occured in Perth this season is, more than anything else, a victory for the world's greatest game.'

Nick Tana
Chairman, 1997

A SOCCER CENTURY

by Richard Kreider

The first one hundred years of Western Australia soccer has finally been documented in a meticulously detailed 220 page publication by Perth writer Richard Kreider.

It covers extensively the Saturday, Amateur, Ladies and juniors game, both in the city and country along with many remarkable photographs.

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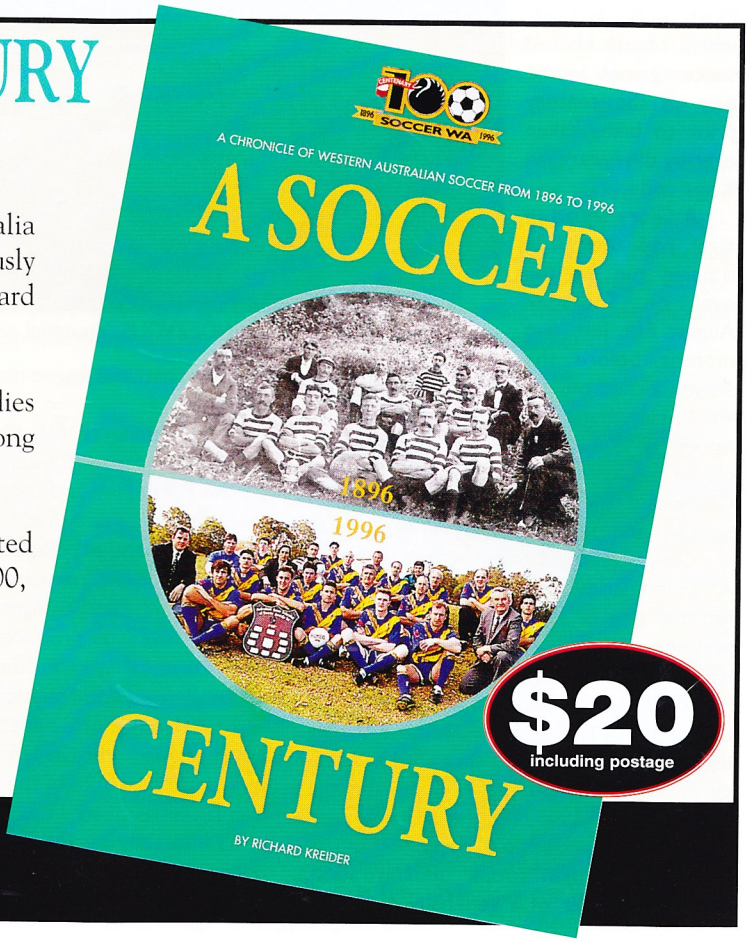

ON SALE NOW

NO PLACE LIKE HOME

By Richard Kreider

While the playing squad was gradually reaching a competitive edge, the Glory administrators were still in a dilemma at finding a home venue.

The Lake Monger Velodrome was first favoured but later dropped when nearby residents successfully protested about the likelihood of excessive noise and traffic.

Parry Field, a baseball ground in the Belmont shire was then considered, but the Glory pulled out when the council limited the proposed stadium seating capacity to just 8,000.

Of the 23 facilities considered, the Town of Vincent came up with the eventual home in East Perth - Perth Oval, which had hosted soccer games at the turn of the century prior to being taken over by the Australian Rules code.

A Glory squad of eight had their first training run on the oval on Thursday, August 8th, just two months before the season kicked off. It was agreed the Glory would play there for two seasons, with the option of a third. Because the NSL was played in summer, there was no likelihood of Glory and the East Perth Football Club matches and training nights ever clashing.

Glory Deputy Chairman Paul Afkos, of Afkos Industries, supplied temporary seating for one side of the pitch, and the existing seating in the main stand and the perimeter was upgraded to the tune of $650,000.

Ironically, the Glory could have avoided the hassle of finding a venue and spending big money on upgrading Perth Oval had soccer been able to buy the land from the Loton family in 1905. But the asking price of five thousand pounds had been well out of reach of the then soccer administration, despite the offer of a generous monetary contribution from the then Attorney-General Septimus Burt.

And so, after 20 years of rejection and dejection, WA made the Ericsson Cup a truly national competition on Sunday October 13, 1997 when they competed in their first national league match, against UTS Olympic.

RENDEZVOUS...an aerial view of Perth Oval.

The Premier of WA, Mr Richard Court ,was in attendance to inaugurate the season for the Perth club and despite a 4-1 defeat, the signs were there that WA would be continuing the trend of being a truly competitive force in a national participatory sport.

Also, on that twilight afternoon the crowd started to produce something that was previously a rare commodity in local soccer, namely vocal support.

It became more evident at the second home game against Canberra Cosmos when the north-west area of the ground that was eventually dubbed 'The Hill' continually burst into song in true European style. No doubt the 6-0 scoreline, one that was greatly assisted by the previous week's surprise 3-1 victory at the Newcastle Breakers ground, would have ignited the spark to something that was indeed the envy of most of the other Ericsson Cup clubs.

After a 0-0 away draw with the Collingwood Warriors and a 2-3 home defeat to Gippsland Falcons, the team was still pulling in twice the crowd Glory officials were anticipating. This again was clear proof WA had been thirsting for regular quality soccer action other than the odd opponent for the State side.

Home attendances improved with each game and peaked in January when a staggering 17,582 saw Perth draw 1-1 with Marconi Fairfield. The eventual average for the 13 game home season was 11,871, which consisted of a grand total of 154,318 spectators.

Such was the fascination and magnetism of the Glory, a fanzine arrived on the newsstands and television station Channel Seven broadcasted a mid-week, half-hourly show devoted entirely to the Perth team's exploits. They even took their cameras to many of the away games in the second half of the season.

Of the 13 home matches, Perth won six, drew two and lost five, while their away performances were equally impressive: five wins, three draws and five losses.

Their most impressive performances would arguably include the thrashing of Canberra at home in November, a 5-1 victory the following month at the Suncorp Stadium against the eventual champions Brisbane Strikers, a last gasp 3-2 home win over Melbourne Knights in December despite a second-half red card to Dale Wingell and the pitch invasion of two streakers, a 2-1 victory at Marconi on

THE ORIGINALS...Perth Glory players take to the field for their debut, October 13, 1996. Rear L-R, Tom Maras, Vinko Buljibasic, Paul Strudwick, Gavin Wilkinson, Peter Vukmirovic, Doug Ithier, Paul McVittie, Bobby Despotovski, Vince Matassa. Front L-R, Vlad Beretovac, Alan MacKenzie, Craig Naven, Scott Miller, Dale Wingell, Gareth Naven (captain)

January 4, a 3-1 home win in March against Sydney United and a 4-0 hiding of South Melbourne Lakers on April 12 which included a sensational first-half hat-trick to Vas Kalogeracos. The speedy forward's 45th minute third goal was a jaw dropping 25 metre dipping missile that bulged the top right-hand corner of the net which was later selected as the SBS TV Ericsson Cup goal of the season.

The Lakers win kept the Glory in sixth place on the league ladder and set up a fairy-tale ending for the Perth club in their first season, where only a draw in the final fixture against Melbourne Knights at the intimidating Knights Stadium would have seen them through to the play-offs.

The Glory however, were far from disgraced in a 3-1 defeat which was soured by a questionable sending-off of Paul Strudwick in the 53rd minute by referee Simon Micallef after a 50-50 aerial challenge with Andrew Marth who caught a flying elbow. Glory were in the box-seat after 10 minutes when Anthony Carbone slotted in the opening goal after a defence splitting flank run, but Tom Pondeljak equalised seconds before half-time and then put the Knights ahead in the 59th minute. Adrian Cervinski ended the Glory's first season two minutes before the final whistle by slotting home a penalty past Robert Zabica after Dale Wingell tripped Ice Kutlesovski in the box.

After the match, and despite the obvious disappointment, Gary Marocchi congratulated each of his players for a sensational season. Later, the Glory coach reflected on the defeats to bottom sides Canberra, Newcastle and Collingwood in the second-half of the season, where their play-off prospects would have improved significantly had they collected just one point from any of those three fixtures. But they received consolation from the Ericsson Cup Awards night by winning the Fairplay trophy, Marocchi came third for the Coach of the Year honour, and Slobodan Despotovski was rewarded for finishing third on the overall goalscorers list (14 goals), with selection for a Nintendo Superstars of Soccer tournament which was arranged for Socceroo coach Terry Venables in order to select a squad of players for the up and coming World Cup qualifying matches.

The Glory season came to a close on May 31 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel Ballroom, with a $100 per head black tie ball. Over 600 guests enjoyed an evening that was perhaps the most extravagant the local soccer fraternity had ever witnessed.

Although absent through national duty in Papua New Guinea, New Zealand defender Gavin Wilkinson was clearly the star of the season when he clinched both the inaugural Most Glorious Player (MGP) trophy and the Supporters Player of the Year award. There was also a 'silent' auction run throughout the night for items such as autographed and framed players shirts and match programmes, club memberships, signed soccer balls and two exclusive sets of vehicle number plates.

'GLORY 3' eventually peaked and sold for an astonishing $3,400, 'PG 1996' went for $1,600, while the framed autographed shirts were snapped up for around $900.

Nick Tana and Paul Afkos sent out a clear message at that presentation spectacular. They proved that if soccer is run in a truly unbiased and professional manner, then the glint of light in a football code that has been crying out for success in the West for over a century, can only get brighter by the minute.

And as a consequence, the reward for both Tana and Afkos, and his equally hard working partners Tony Di Francesco (Director), Jim Davies (Marketing Consultant) and General Manager Roger Lefort, will be nothing more than national glory of perpetual dimensions.

THANKS FANS...Scott Miller, Craig Naven, Alan MacKenzie, Gavin Wilkinson and Vas Kalogeracos acknowledge the support from the hill.

NATIONAL LEAGUE
Standings 1977-1996/97

National Soccer League of Australia 1977

Team	Pl	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sydney City	26	13	11	2	52	28	37
Marconi	26	15	7	4	42	21	37
Fitzroy United	26	12	8	6	41	34	32
Adelaide City	26	12	7	7	50	31	31
Western Suburbs	26	11	7	8	38	29	29
St. George	26	7	14	5	39	35	28
West Adelaide	26	8	10	8	38	32	26
Footscray JUST	26	9	6	11	36	39	24
Brisbane Lions	26	9	5	12	27	41	23
Brisbane City	26	8	6	12	30	35	22
South Melbourne	26	7	8	11	27	35	22
Sydney Olympic	26	7	7	12	25	38	21
Canberra City	26	5	7	14	22	39	17
Mooroolbark	26	5	5	16	31	61	15

League Champions Sydney City

National League Cup
Grand Final
Brisbane City 1-1 Marconi
Brisbane won 5-3 on penalties

National Soccer League of Australia 1978

Team	Pl	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
West Adelaide	26	16	4	6	42	27	36
Eastern Suburbs-Hakoah	26	15	5	6	49	27	35
South Melbourne	26	12	8	6	45	30	32
Marconi	26	12	6	8	46	31	30
Fitzroy	26	9	8	9	39	39	26
Brisbane Lions	26	8	10	8	37	39	26
St. George	26	11	3	12	41	40	25
Sydney Olympic	26	9	7	10	35	43	25
Western Suburbs	26	9	6	11	41	45	24
Adelaide City	26	9	6	11	38	44	24
Newcastle KB Utd	26	6	10	10	33	40	22
Footscray	26	7	8	11	29	37	22
Canberra City	26	5	10	11	28	41	20
Brisbane City	26	7	3	16	29	49	17

League Champions West Adelaide

National League Cup
Grand Final
Brisbane City 2-1 Adelaide City

National Soccer League of Australia 1979

Team	Pl	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	BP	TP
Marconi	26	15	6	5	58	32	36	4	40
Heidelberg United	26	14	7	5	44	30	35	1	36
Sydney City	26	15	3	8	47	29	33	1	34
Brisbane City	26	14	5	7	38	30	33	1	34
Adelaide City	26	13	6	7	43	27	32	1	33
Newcastle KB Utd	26	11	9	6	43	30	31	1	32
West Adelaide	26	10	4	12	28	31	24	1	25
Apia Leichhardt	26	11	3	12	29	37	25	0	25
Brisbane Lions	26	8	6	12	28	40	22	0	22
Footscray JUST	26	8	3	15	29	43	19	1	20
St. George	26	7	6	13	27	43	20	0	20
Canberra City	26	6	8	12	25	41	20	0	20
Sydney Olympic	26	7	5	14	23	30	19	0	19
South Melbourne	26	6	3	17	26	45	15	1	16

Bonus points for win by 4 goals or more. TP=Total points

League Champions Marconi-Fairfield

National League Cup
Grand Final
St George 2-3 Adelaide City

National Soccer League of Australia 1980

Team	Pl	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sydney City	26	16	5	5	51	26	37
Heidelberg United	26	15	6	5	55	33	36
South Melbourne	26	15	5	6	42	21	35
Marconi	26	14	6	6	53	32	34
Adelaide City	26	13	4	9	40	27	30
Newcastle KB Utd	26	12	6	8	32	31	30
Brisbane Lions	26	7	11	8	28	32	25
Apia Leichhardt	26	8	7	11	27	35	23
Footscray JUST	26	7	9	10	32	41	23
Canberra City	26	7	7	12	34	33	21
Blacktown City	26	9	3	14	34	55	21
Brisbane City	26	4	10	12	29	36	18
West Adelaide	26	7	3	16	24	46	17
St. George	26	5	4	17	32	65	14

League Champions Sydney City

National League Cup
Grand Final
Heidelberg 0-0 Marconi
Marconi 3-0 Heidelberg (Replay)

National Soccer League of Australia 1981

Team	Pl	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sydney City	30	19	5	6	59	30	43
South Melbourne	30	13	13	4	41	27	39
Brisbane City	30	12	11	7	37	25	35
Apia Leichhardt	30	12	11	7	39	33	35
Canberra Arrows	30	13	7	10	41	32	33
Brisbane Lions	30	11	11	8	41	33	33
Adelaide City	30	13	6	11	46	42	32
Heidelberg	30	12	7	11	48	40	31
Sydney Olympic	30	11	9	10	46	46	31
Newcastle KB Utd	30	11	8	11	41	41	30
Wollongong City	30	8	12	10	35	39	28
Preston Makedonia	30	9	7	14	39	41	25
Footscray JUST	30	9	7	14	32	48	25
Marconi	30	9	7	14	23	45	25
Blacktown City	30	6	9	15	32	47	21
West Adelaide	30	5	4	21	26	57	14

League Champions Sydney City

National League Cup
Grand Final
Brisbane Lions 3-2 West Adelaide

National Soccer League of Australia 1982

Team	Pl	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sydney City	30	20	5	5	68	28	45
St. George	30	14	8	8	47	40	36
Wollongong City	30	16	3	11	43	46	35
Heidelberg	30	13	8	9	42	37	34
Preston Makedonia	30	12	10	8	45	41	34
South Melbourne	30	11	9	10	46	37	31
Apia Leichhardt	30	12	7	11	49	54	31
Sydney Olympic	30	12	6	12	52	42	30
West Adelaide	30	10	8	12	44	40	28
Marconi	30	12	4	14	44	43	28
Brisbane Lions	30	10	8	12	39	42	28
Newcastle KB Utd	30	10	7	13	43	52	27
Adelaide City	30	6	12	12	36	44	24
Footscray JUST	30	5	14	11	34	46	24
Canberra City	30	7	10	13	37	54	24
Brisbane City	30	5	11	14	32	55	21

League Champions Sydney City

National League Cup
Grand Final
Heidelberg 1-2 Leichhardt

National Soccer League of Australia 1983

Team	Pl	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
St. George	30	15	10	5	47	27	55
Sydney City	30	15	9	6	48	30	54
Preston Makedonia	30	15	7	8	47	32	52
South Melbourne	30	15	7	8	44	36	52
Newcastle Rosebud Utd	30	14	7	9	45	26	49
Heidelberg	30	11	10	9	39	38	43
Sydney Olympic	30	12	5	13	38	36	41
Apia Leichhardt	30	11	6	13	42	36	39
Marconi	30	9	11	10	43	41	38
Canberra Olympians	30	11	5	14	47	53	38
Adelaide City	30	10	6	14	37	38	36
Footscray JUST	30	9	9	12	25	42	36
West Adelaide	30	7	12	11	25	36	33
Brisbane City	30	8	9	13	33	50	33
Wollongong City	30	4	15	11	41	55	27
Brisbane Lions	30	6	8	16	36	61	26

League Champions St. George

National League Cup
Grand Final (Over 2 Legs)
Sydney Olympic 1-0 Heidelberg
Heidelberg 0-1 Sydney Olympic

National Soccer League of Australia 1984

Team Australian Conference	Pl	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sydney City	28	17	8	3	67	21	42
Sydney Olympic	28	16	8	4	61	27	40
Marconi	28	12	8	8	58	39	32
Apia Leichhardt	28	12	8	8	43	35	32
Blacktown City	28	12	6	10	43	48	30
Sydney Croatia	28	8	11	9	32	38	27
Penrith City	28	8	10	10	29	41	26
Newcastle Rosebud Utd	28	11	4	13	35	52	26
Canberra	28	12	1	15	47	39	25
St. George	28	8	9	11	38	41	25
Parramatta Melita Eagles	28	8	8	12	23	38	24
Wollongong City	28	5	5	18	22	59	15

Season Playoff Results

Elimination Semi-Finals	Apia Leichhardt	3-1 Blacktown City
Preliminary Semi-Final	Sydney Olympic	2-1 Marconi
Major Semi-Final	Sydney City	1-1 Sydney Olympic
	Sydney City win 4-2 on penalties	
Minor Semi-Final	Marconi	3-3 Apia Leichhardt
	Apia win 4-3 on penalties	
Preliminary Final	Sydney Olympic	3-0 Apia Leichhardt
Australian Grand Final	Sydney City	1-2 Sydney Olympic

NATIONAL LEAGUE

National Soccer League of Australia 1984

Team National Conference	Pl	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
South Melbourne	28	18	4	6	48	20	40
Heidelberg	28	14	7	7	37	27	35
Melbourne Croatia	28	13	7	8	38	31	33
Brisbane Lions	28	12	6	10	38	36	30
Brunswick United	28	13	4	11	36	42	30
Preston Makedonia	28	11	6	11	42	33	28
Adelaide City	28	10	5	13	33	34	25
Footscray JUST	28	10	5	13	29	33	25
Green Gully	28	9	6	13	34	36	24
West Adelaide	28	8	5	15	40	52	21
Brisbane City	28	8	5	15	21	39	21
Sunshine George Cross	28	5	6	17	24	57	16

Season Playoff Results

Elimination Semi-Final	Brisbane Lions	4-2	Brunswick United
Preliminary Semi-Final	Melbourne Croatia	2-1	Heidelberg United
Major Semi-Final	South Melbourne	3-2	Melbourne CSC
Minor Semi-Final	Heidelberg United	0-0	Brisbane Lions
	Heidelberg won 3-2 on penalties		
Preliminary Final	Heidelberg United	3-1	Melbourne CSC
National Grand Final	South Melbourne	4-2	Heidelberg United

Championship Playoff (Over 2 Legs)	South Melbourne	2-1	Sydney Olympic
	Sydney Olympic	1-2	South Melbourne

National Soccer League of Australia 1985

Team Southern Div.	Pl	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
South Melbourne	22	14	5	3	39	21	33
Brunswick Juventus	22	11	7	4	33	19	29
Heidelberg United	22	10	7	5	29	17	27
Melbourne Croatia	22	9	6	7	29	21	24
Preston Makedonia	22	9	6	7	30	28	24
Sunshine George Cross	22	8	7	7	25	22	23
Brisbane Lions	22	9	4	9	29	29	22
Green Gully	22	6	6	10	24	29	18
Adelaide City	22	6	6	10	29	35	18
West Adelaide	22	6	5	11	24	37	17
Brisbane City	22	6	5	11	25	42	16
Footscray JUST	22	5	1	15	25	41	12

Season Playoff Results

Elimination Semi-Final	Preston	2-1	Melbourne Croatia
Preliminary Semi-Final	Brunswick Juventus	2-0	Heidelberg
Major Semi-Final	South Melbourne	0-1	Brunswick
Minor Semi-Final	Heidelberg	0-2	Preston
Preliminary Final	South Melbourne	4-4	Preston
	Preston win 5-4 on penalties		
Southern Grand Final	Brunswick	2-1	Preston

Championship Playoff (Over 2 Legs)	Sydney City	0-1	Brunswick
	Brunswick	1-0	Sydney City

National Soccer League of Australia 1985

Team Northern Div.	Pl	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sydney City	22	15	5	2	42	19	35
Sydney Croatia	22	14	5	3	50	22	33
Marconi	22	11	7	4	44	23	29
Sydney Olympic	22	12	3	7	29	25	27
St. George	22	7	8	7	31	26	22
Canberra Olympians	22	8	6	8	33	35	22
Inter-Monaro	22	7	6	9	29	37	20
Blacktown City	22	7	4	11	30	34	18
Apia Leichhardt	22	7	2	13	20	34	16
Wollongong City	22	5	6	11	29	46	16
Penrith City	22	4	5	12	24	35	13
Newcastle Rosebud	22	4	4	14	20	45	12

National League Cup

Grand Final	Melbourne Croatia	0-1	Newcastle

Season Playoff Results

Elimination Semi-Final	Sydney Olympic	1-0	St. George
Preliminary Semi-Final	Sydney Croatia	2-1	Marconi
Major Semi-Final	Sydney City	1-0	Sydney CSC
Minor Semi-Final	Marconi	3-3	Sydney Olympic
	Marconi win 7-6 on penalties		
Preliminary Final	Sydney CSC	0-1	Marconi
Northern Grand Final	Sydney City	2-0	Marconi

National Soccer League of Australia 1986

Team Northern Div.	Pl	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sydney Croatia	22	14	4	4	43	18	32
Sydney Olympic	22	9	9	4	33	22	27
St. George	22	11	5	6	33	29	27
Marconi	22	9	7	6	35	22	25
Sydney City	22	8	8	6	36	27	24
Newcastle	22	9	6	7	36	33	24
Apia Leichhardt	22	9	6	7	25	23	24
Wollongong City	22	9	5	8	26	25	23
Blacktown City	22	8	4	10	24	36	20
Canberra Olympians	22	5	6	11	21	27	16
Canterbury-Marrickville	22	2	7	13	17	41	11
Inter-Monaro	22	3	5	14	17	43	11

National League Cup

Grand Final	Sydney Olympic	2-1	Preston

Season Playoff Results

Qualifying Semi-Final	Sydney Olympic	0-1	St. George
Elimination Semi-Final	Marconi	3-3	Sydney City
	Marconi win 4-3 on penalties		
Major Semi-Final	Sydney CSC	0-3	St. George
Minor Semi-Final	Sydney Olympic	2-0	Marconi
Preliminary Final	Sydney CSC	3-4	Sydney Olympic
Northern Grand Final	Sydney Olympic	3-2	St. George

National Soccer League of Australia 1986

Team Southern Div.	Pl	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Brunswick Juventus	22	11	6	5	37	21	28
Footscray JUST	22	10	8	4	29	27	28
Adelaide City	22	10	7	5	32	19	27
Sunshine George Cross	22	8	11	3	26	17	27
Heidelberg	22	9	8	5	35	25	26
Preston Makedonia	22	8	9	5	30	20	25
South Melbourne Hellas	22	10	5	7	27	20	25
Brisbane Lions	22	7	5	10	27	28	19
Adelaide Hellas	22	7	4	11	26	34	18
Melbourne Croatia	22	6	6	10	25	33	18
Brisbane City	22	3	7	12	18	46	13
Green Gully	22	2	6	14	16	38	10

Season Playoff Results

Qualifying Semi-Final	Footscray	2-3	Adelaide City
Elimination Semi-Final	Sunshine George X	2-1	Heidelberg
Major Semi-Final	Brunswick	0-2	Adelaide City
Minor Semi-Final	Footscray	2-0	Sunshine George X
Preliminary Final	Brunswick	1-2	Footscray
South Grand Final	Footscray	1-2	Adelaide City
Championship playoff (Over 2 Legs)	Adelaide City	0-1	Sydney Olympic
	Sydney Olympic	1-3	Adelaide City

National League Cup

Grand Final

West Adelaide 2-3 Sydney City

National Soccer League of Australia 1987

Team	Pl	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Apia Leichhardt	24	13	9	2	39	21	35
Preston Makedonia	24	11	7	6	32	22	29
St. George	24	12	5	7	31	24	29
Marconi	24	11	5	8	41	25	27
Sydney Croatia	24	10	6	8	31	25	26
South Melbourne	24	9	7	8	32	34	25
Sydney Olympic	24	7	9	8	29	32	23
Brunswick Juventus	24	9	5	10	18	23	23
Melbourne Croatia	24	9	5	10	22	30	23
Adelaide City	24	6	10	8	29	23	22
Footscray	24	7	8	9	17	27	22
Sunshine George Cross	24	3	9	12	26	42	15
Heidelberg	24	3	7	14	25	44	13

League Champions — **Apia Leichhardt**

National League Cup

Grand Final

Sydney Croatia 1-0 South Melbourne

(Over 2 Legs)

South Melbourne 0-1 Sydney Croatia

National Soccer League of Australia 1988

Team	Pl	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Wollongong City	26	13	8	5	44	32	34
Sydney Croatia	26	15	4	7	38	30	34
South Melbourne	26	13	8	5	36	29	34
Marconi-Fairfield	26	12	8	6	46	26	32
Sydney Olympic	26	9	9	8	28	22	27
Adelaide City	26	10	7	9	36	35	27
Sunshine George Cross	26	11	5	10	38	39	27
St. George	26	10	6	10	41	35	26
Melbourne Croatia	26	9	6	11	28	33	24
Footscray	26	7	9	10	34	32	23
Apia Leichhardt	26	8	7	11	28	35	23
Preston	26	5	12	9	29	35	22
Brunswick	26	7	5	14	31	43	19
Brisbane Lions	26	4	4	18	28	59	12

Season Playoff Results

Qualifying Semi-Final	Sydney Croatia	2-1	South Melbourne
Elimination Semi-Final	Marconi	3-1	Sydney Olympic
Major Semi-Final	Wollongong	0-0	Sydney Croatia
	Sydney won 4-3 on penalties		
Minor Semi-Final	South Melbourne	1-2	Marconi
Preliminary Final	Wollongong	0-2	Marconi
Grand Final	Sydney Croatia	2-2	Marconi
	Marconi win 3-2 on penalties		

National League Cup

Grand Final — Apia Leichhardt 0-0 Brunswick Juventus

Apia win 5-3 on penalties

National Soccer League of Australia 1989

Team	Pl	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Marconi-Fairfield	26	16	6	4	62	24	38
St. George	26	12	8	6	33	24	32
Sydney Olympic	26	11	9	6	37	26	31
Melbourne Croatia	26	13	5	8	44	35	31
Preston	26	11	8	7	31	24	30
Adelaide City	26	10	8	8	29	24	28
Sydney Croatia	26	10	8	8	25	25	28
South Melbourne	26	9	8	9	44	37	26
Wollongong City	26	8	7	11	22	29	23
Apia Leichhardt	26	7	9	10	27	35	23
Sunshine George Cross	26	7	5	14	25	38	19
Blacktown	26	5	9	12	28	50	19
Melbourne JUST	26	5	8	13	24	37	18
Heidelberg	26	7	4	15	22	45	18

Season Playoff Results

Elimination Final	Melbourne Croatia	2-0	Preston Makedonia
Qualifying Final	St. George	1-0	Sydney Olympic
Major Semi-Final	Marconi-Fairfield	1-0	St. George
Minor Semi-Final	Melbourne Croatia	2-3	Sydney Olympic
Preliminary Final	St. George	0-1	Sydney Olympic
Grand Final	Marconi-Fairfield	1-0	Sydney Olympic

National League Cup

Grand Final

Adelaide City 2-0 Sydney Olympic

NATIONAL LEAGUE

National Soccer League of Australia 1989-90

Team	Pl	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Marconi	26	16	6	4	51	24	38
South Melbourne	26	15	6	5	42	23	36
Melbourne Croatia	26	14	7	5	49	26	35
Adelaide City	26	13	8	5	39	23	34
Sydney Olympic	26	12	7	7	40	25	31
Apia Leichhardt	26	11	9	6	36	25	31
Sydney Croatia	26	10	6	10	40	39	26
Parramatta	26	10	6	10	31	31	26
Preston	26	9	5	12	33	35	23
St. George	26	7	7	12	35	44	21
Wollongong City	26	8	4	14	30	48	20
Sunshine George Cross	26	6	5	15	24	49	17
West Adelaide	26	5	4	17	21	54	14
Blacktown	26	4	4	18	30	55	12

Season Playoff Results

Qualifying Semi-Final	South Melbourne	1-1	Melbourne CSC
	Melbourne CSC won 7-6 on penalties		
Elimination Semi-Final	Adelaide City	1-2	Sydney Olympic
Major Semi-Final	Marconi	1-0	Melbourne CSC
Minor Semi-Final	South Melbourne	0-1	Sydney Olympic
Preliminary Final	Melbourne CSC	1-2	Sydney Olympic
Grand Final	Marconi	0-2	Sydney Olympic

National League Cup

Grand Final	South Melbourne	4-1	Sydney Olympic

National Soccer League of Australia 1990-91

Team	Pl	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Melbourne Croatia	26	15	7	4	55	39	37
South Melbourne	26	14	6	6	45	33	34
Adelaide City	26	12	9	5	40	24	33
Marconi-Fairfield	26	14	3	9	48	33	31
Parramatta	26	10	9	7	38	31	29
Sydney Olympic	26	8	13	5	31	25	29
Sydney Croatia	26	8	10	8	27	33	26
Preston	26	8	9	9	26	27	25
Wollongong City	26	8	8	10	32	34	24
St George	26	6	10	10	34	41	22
Apia Leichhardt	26	7	7	12	27	28	21
Heidelberg United	26	6	9	11	26	37	21
Sunshine George Cross	26	7	3	16	39	53	17
Wollongong Makedonia	26	3	9	14	23	53	15

Season Playoff Results

Qualifying Semi-Final	South Melbourne	4-2	Adelaide City
Elimination Semi-Final	Marconi	3-3	Parramatta
	Marconi win 7-6 on penalties		
Major Semi-Final	Melbourne Croatia	1-0	South Melbourne
Minor Semi-Final	Adelaide City	1-0	Marconi
Preliminary Final	South Melbourne	1-0	Adelaide City
Grand Final	Melbourne Croatia	1-1	South Melbourne
	South Melbourne win 5-4 on penalties		

National League Cup

Grand Final	Parramatta	1-0	Preston Melita

National Soccer League of Australia 1991-92

Team	Pl	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Melbourne CSC	26	14	7	5	45	26	35
Sydney Olympic	26	12	10	4	38	27	34
South Melbourne	26	13	5	8	51	28	31
Adelaide City	26	10	9	7	26	23	29
Wollongong City	26	9	10	7	24	17	28
Brisbane United	26	8	10	8	31	35	26
Marconi-Fairfield	26	10	5	11	33	31	25
Apia Leichhardt	26	7	11	8	26	28	25
Heidelberg United	26	8	8	10	28	33	24
Parramatta Eagles	26	6	11	9	24	24	23
Newcastle Breakers	26	7	8	11	28	39	22
Sydney CSC	26	6	9	11	22	33	21
West Adelaide	26	7	7	12	25	46	21
Preston	26	5	10	11	21	32	20

Season Playoff Results

Elimination Semi-Final	Adelaide City	1-0	Wollongong City
Qualifying Semi-Final	South Melbourne	2-0	Sydney Olympic
Major Semi-Final	Melbourne CSC	0-0	South Melbourne
	Melbourne CSC won 5-3 on penalties		
Minor Semi-Final	Adelaide City	2-1	Sydney Olympic
Preliminary Final	Adelaide City	2-0	South Melbourne
Grand Final	Adelaide City	0-0	Melbourne CSC
	Adelaide City win 4-2 on penalties		

National League Cup

Grand Final	Adelaide City	2-1	Marconi

National Soccer League of Australia 1992-93

Team	Pl	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
South Melbourne	26	18	4	4	51	23	58
Marconi-Fairfield	26	17	2	7	57	31	53
Adelaide City	26	12	5	9	37	34	41
Wollongong City	26	11	6	9	33	27	39
West Adelaide	26	12	3	11	43	39	39
Parramatta Eagles	26	11	6	9	39	41	39
Sydney CSC	26	12	3	11	36	41	39
Newcastle Breakers	26	10	8	8	38	29	38
Sydney Olympic	26	10	4	12	36	31	34
Melbourne CSC	26	10	4	12	38	39	34
Heidelberg United	26	7	9	10	30	40	30
Morwell Falcons	26	7	7	12	29	43	28
Preston *	26	6	4	16	28	45	18
Brisbane United	26	5	3	18	32	64	18

*Four points deducted due to crowd disturbance

Season Playoff Results

"3rd v 5th, 4th v 6th"	Adelaide City	0-1	West Adelaide
(Over 2 Legs)	Wollongong City	3-0	Parramatta Eagles
	West Adelaide	1-2	Adelaide City
	Parramatta Eagles	2-1	Wollongong City
Major Semi-Final	Marconi-Fairfield	7-0	South Melbourne
Minor Semi-Final	Adelaide City	4-0	Wollongong City
Preliminary Final	South Melbourne	1-3	Adelaide City
Grand Final	Marconi-Fairfield	1-0	Adelaide City

National League Cup

Grand Final	Heidelberg Utd	2-1	Parramatta Eagles

National Soccer League of Australia 1993-94

Team	Pl	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Melbourne Knights	26	16	5	5	59	24	53
South Melbourne	26	13	8	5	39	20	47
Sydney United	26	13	7	6	31	29	46
Marconi-Fairfield	26	11	9	6	52	33	42
Adelaide City	26	11	8	7	48	27	41
Sydney Olympic	26	11	8	7	40	37	41
Morwell Falcons	26	11	7	8	31	30	40
Brisbane Strikers	26	10	6	10	28	25	36
West Adelaide	26	10	5	11	41	34	35
Parramatta Eagles	26	8	9	9	27	29	33
Wollongong City	26	6	9	11	24	32	27
Newcastle Breakers	26	5	8	13	30	47	23
Brunswick Pumas	26	5	4	17	22	57	19
Heidelberg United	26	3	5	18	19	67	14

Season Playoff Results

"1st v 2nd, 3rd v 5th, 4th v 6th"	South Melbourne	1-2	Melbourne Knights
(Over 2 Legs)	Adelaide City	0-1	Sydney United
	Sydney Olympic	2-1	Marconi-Fairfield
	Melbourne Knights	2-2	South Melbourne
	Sydney United	0-2	Adelaide City
	Marconi-Fairfield	3-1	Sydney Olympic
Minor Semi-Final	Marconi-Fairfield	1-3	Adelaide City
Preliminary Final	South Melbourne	0-2	Adelaide City
Grand Final	Melbourne Knights	0-1	Adelaide City

National League Cup

Grand Final	Sydney United	0-2	Parramatta Eagles

National Soccer League of Australia 1994-95

Team	Pl	WPW	PL	L	F	A	Pts
Melbourne Knights	24	16	2	2	4	56	25	70
Adelaide City	24	16	1	3	4	41	20	69
Sydney United	24	15	3	2	4	34	19	68
Morwell Falcons	24	8	4	7	5	41	37	47
West Adelaide	24	8	5	3	8	28	32	45
South Melbourne	24	9	3	2	10	42	36	44
Brisbane Strikers	24	8	3	3	10	34	32	41
Wollongong City	24	8	2	2	12	39	46	38
Sydney Olympic	24	8	1	3	12	27	34	37
Marconi-Fairfield	24	6	4	3	11	34	43	35
Melbourne SC	24	6	4	2	12	20	37	34
Parramatta Eagles	24	7	2	1	14	25	34	33
Heidelberg United	24	6	1	2	15	27	53	28

Season Playoff Results

Elimination Semi-Finals	Morwell Falcons	0-1	South Melbourne
(Over 2 Legs)	South Melbourne	5-1	Morwell Falcons
	West Adelaide	1-1	Sydney United
	Sydney United	1-0	West Adelaide
Major Semi-Final	Adelaide City	1-0	Melbourne Knights
(Over 2 Legs)	Melbourne Knights	1-2	Adelaide City
Minor Semi-Final	Sydney United	1-3	South Melbourne
Preliminary Final	Melbourne Knights	3-2	South Melbourne
Grand Final	Adelaide City	0-2	Melbourne Knights

National League Cup

Grand Final	Melbourne Knights	6-0	Heidelberg United

"W - Games won 4 pts, PW - Penalty Win 2 pts (after a drawn game) PL= Penalty Loss 1pt"

National Soccer League of Australia 1995-96

Team	Pl	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Marconi-Fairfield	33	17	9	7	58	35	60
Melbourne Knights	33	17	8	8	50	28	59
UTS Olympic	33	17	8	8	55	41	59
Brisbane Strikers	33	17	6	10	54	35	57
Adelaide City	33	15	9	9	65	40	54
Sydney United	33	14	12	7	47	33	54
West Adelaide	33	16	5	12	49	43	53
South Melbourne	33	14	4	15	50	56	46
Canberra Cosmos	33	8	11	14	48	61	35
Morwell Falcons	33	9	8	16	35	65	35
Wollongong City	33	5	5	23	31	63	20
Newcastle Breakers	33	4	5	24	35	77	17

Season Playoff Results

1st v 2nd	Melbourne Knights	1-0	Marconi-Fairfield
(Over 2 legs)	Marconi-Fairfield	2-2	Melbourne Knights
3rd v 5th	Adelaide City	2-0	UTS Olympic
(Over 2 Legs)	UTS Olympic	0-1	Adelaide City
4th v 6th	Sydney United	2-0	Brisbane Strikers
(Over 2 Legs)	Brisbane Strikers	1-2	Sydney United
Minor Semi-Final	Adelaide City	1-0	Sydney United
Preliminary Final	Marconi-Fairfield	4-1	Adelaide City
Grand Final	Melbourne Knights	2-1	Marconi-Fairfield

National League Cup

Grand Final	South Melbourne	3-1	Newcastle Breakers

National Soccer League of Australia 1996-97

Team	Pl	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sydney United Pumas	26	17	5	4	67	33	56
Brisbane Strikers	26	15	2	9	55	40	47
South Melbourne Lakers	26	14	4	8	39	25	46
Adelaide City Zebras	26	11	10	5	32	22	43
Marconi-Fairfield Stallions	26	12	4	10	41	37	40
Melbourne Knights	26	11	6	9	36	32	39
Perth Glory	26	11	5	10	48	41	38
West Adelaide Sharks	26	10	3	13	39	51	33
UTS Olympic	26	8	8	10	41	46	32
Wollongong City Wolves	26	8	8	10	42	48	32
Newcastle Breakers	26	7	9	10	40	46	30
Gippsland Falcons	26	8	6	12	33	41	30
Collingwood Warriors	26	6	9	11	32	44	27
Canberra Cosmos	26	2	5	19	30	69	11

Season Playoff Results

Elimination Final			
3rd v 6th	Melbourne Knights	1-4	South Melbourne
(Over 2 Legs)	South Melbourne	3-0	Melbourne Knights
4th v 5th	Marconi-Fairfield	3-0	Adelaide City
(Over 2 Legs)	Adelaide City	4-0	Marconi-Fairfield
Major Semi-Final	Brisbane Strikers	1-0	Sydney United
Minor Semi-Final	South Melbourne	1-0	Adelaide City
Preliminary Final	Sydney United	1-0	South Melbourne
Grand Final	Brisbane Strikers	2-0	Sydney United

National League Cup

Grand Final	Collingwood Warr.	1-0	Marconi-Fairfield

NATIONAL LEAGUE AWARDS

Player of the Year

Season	Player	Club
1977	Jimmy Rooney	Marconi
1978	Ken Boden	Newcastle United
1979	Ivo Prskalo	Marconi
1980	Jim Hermiston	Brisbane Lions
1981	Bobby Russell	Adelaide City
1982	Peter Katholos	Sydney Olympic
1983	Joe Watson	Sydney City
1984	Sergio Melta	Adelaide City
1985	Graham Honeyman	West Adelaide
1986	Bobby Russell	South Melbourne
	Graham Arnold	Sydney Croatia
1987	Andrew Zinni	Brunswick Juventus
	Frank Farina	Marconi
1988	Paul Wade	South Melbourne
1989	Zlatko Nastevski	Marconi
1989/90	Zeljko Adzic	Melbourne Croatia
1990/91	Milan Ivanovic	Adelaide City
1991/92	Josip Biskic	Melbourne CSC
1992/93	Paul Trimboli	South Melbourne
1993/94	Mark Viduka	Melbourne Knights
1994/95	Mark Viduka	Melbourne Knights
1995/96	Damien Mori	Adelaide City
1996/97	Kresimir Marusic	Sydney United

Coach of the Year

Season	Coach	Club
1977	Rale Rasic	Marconi
1978	Gerry Chaldi	Sydney City
1979	Les Scheinflug	Marconi
1980	John Margaritis	South Melbourne
1981	Eddie Thomson	Sydney City
1982	Frank Arok	St. George
1983	Frank Arok	St. George
1984	Eddie Thomson	Sydney City
1985	Eddie Thomson	Sydney City
1986	Drago Sekularic	Melbourne City
1987	Rale Rasic	Apia
1988	Brian Garvey	South Melbourne
1989	Bertie Mariani	Marconi
1989/90	Bertie Mariani	Marconi
1990/91	Zoran Matic	Adelaide City
1991/92	David Ratcliffe	Wollongong City
1992/93	Jim Pyrgolios	South Melbourne
1993/94	Mirko Bazic	Melbourne Knights
1994/95	Zoran Matic	Adelaide City
1995/96	John Perin	Adelaide City
1996/97	Branko Culina	Sydney United

Top Goalscorer of the Year

Season	Player	Club	Goals
1977	Dixie Deans	Adelaide City	16
1978	Ken Boden	Newcastle United	14
	Clive Eaton	Western Suburbs	14
1979	Mark Jankovic	Marconi	18
1980	Gary Cole	Heidelberg	21
1981	Gary Cole	Heidelberg	16
1982	John Kosmina	Sydney City	23
1983	Doug Brown	South Melbourne	16
1984	Doug Brown	South Melbourne	22
1.985	Charlie Egan	South Melbourne	21
1986	Graham Arnold	Sydney Croatia	15
1987	Frank Farina	Marconi	16
1988	Frank Farina	Marconi	16
1989	Zlatko Nastevski	Marconi	20
1989/90	David Seal	Sydney Croatia	15
1990/91	David Seal	Marconi	19
1991/92	Tim Bredbury	Sydney Olympic	15
	Kimon Taliadoros	South Melbourne	15
1992/93	Francis Awaritefe	South Melbourne	19
1993/94	Mark Viduka	Melbourne Knights	16
1994/95	Mark Viduka	Melbourne Knights	18
1995/96	Damien Mori	Adelaide City	31
1996/97	David Zdrilic	Sydney United	21

Under-21 Player of the Year

Season	Name	Club
1977	John Kosmina	West Adelaide
1978	Ian Souness	Sydney City
1979	Eddie Krncevic	Marconi
1980	John Spanos	Sydney City
1981	David Mitchell	Adelaide City
1982	David Lowe	Newcastle United
1983	Oscar Crino	South Melbourne
1984	Tony Franken	Canberra City
1985	Alan Hunter	Brisbane Lions
1986	Ernie Tapai	Melbourne City
1987	John Markovski	Sunshine George Cross
1988	Paul Trimboli	South Melbourne
1989	Paul Trimboli	South Melbourne
1989/90	Paul Okon	Marconi
1990/91	Paul Okon	Marconi
1991/92	Kevin Muscat	Heidelberg United
1992/93	Steve Corica	Marconi-Fairfield
1993/94	Mark Viduka	Melbourne Knights
1994/95	Mark Viduka	Melbourne Knights
1995/96	Jim Tsekinis	West Adelaide
1996/97	Kasey Wehrman	Brisbane Strikers

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Players who have participated in both WA and the National League 1977-95/96

(Includes interstate and overseas players)

Player	WA Club	NSL Club
Lee Adam	Inglewood Kiev	Wollongong
Boris Atanasovski	Spearwood Dalmatinac	Footscray: Heidelberg
Frank Bate	Perth Italia	Wollongong City
Arno Bertogna	Perth Azzurri	Newcastle :Wollongong :Apia Leichhardt
Ken Boden	Perth Azzurri	Newcastle : Sydney City : Sydney Croatia
Micky Brennan	Floreat Athena	West Adelaide
Ronnie Campbell	Floreat Athena	Preston Makedonia
Frank Cole	Gosnells City	Brisbane Lions
Alex Cummings	Stirling Macedonia	Brisbane Lions : Morwell Falcons
Slobodan Despotovski	Floreat Athena	Morwell Falcons
Paul Donnelly	Perth Italia	Melbourne Croatia
Robbie Dunn	Kwinana United	West Adelaide : Preston Makedonia : Melbourne Croatia
Alistair Edwards	Kwinana United	Sydney (UTS) Olympic
Paul Farmer	Floreat Athena	Wollongong City
Anthony Franken	EF Tricolore	Canberra : Sydney Croatia : UTS Olympic
Michael Garcia	Olympic Kingsway	Canberra Cosmos
Steve Green	WP Macedonia	St. George
Mike Harkness	Sorrento	West Adelaide
Willie Herd	Bayswater Panthers	Melbourne Croatia : Brunswick Juventus
Sauro Iozelli	Perth Azzurri	Brisbane City
David Jones	Kwinana United	W.Adelaide:Adelaide City:Sth.Melbourne:Preston Makedonia
Vas Kalogeracos	Floreat Athena	Sydney Olympic
Tom Kilkelly	Olympic Kingsway	Apia Leichhardt
Stan Lazaridis	Floreat Athena	West Adelaide
Paul McVittie	Bayswater Panthers	Canberra Cosmos
Gary Marocchi	Perth Azzurri	Adelaide City
Vince Matassa	Perth Italia	Morwell Falcons
Willie McNally	Olympic Kingsway	Adelaide City
Scott Miller	Spearwood Dalmatinac	Morwell Falcons
Peter Murphy	Perth Italia	Melbourne Croatia
Shaun Murphy	Perth Italia	Blacktown
Gareth Naven	Perth Italia	Adelaide City
Jason Petkovic	Spearwood Dalmatinac	Adelaide City
Michael Petkovic	Spearwood Dalmatinac	South Melbourne
Allan Pottier	Perth Italia	St. George
John Spanos	Forrestfield United	Sydney City:Heidelberg:Marconi:Blacktown
Richard Watson	Sorrento	Canberra Cosmos
Paul Wormley	Floreat Athena	West Adelaide
Robert Zabica	Spearwood Dalmatinac	Adelaide City

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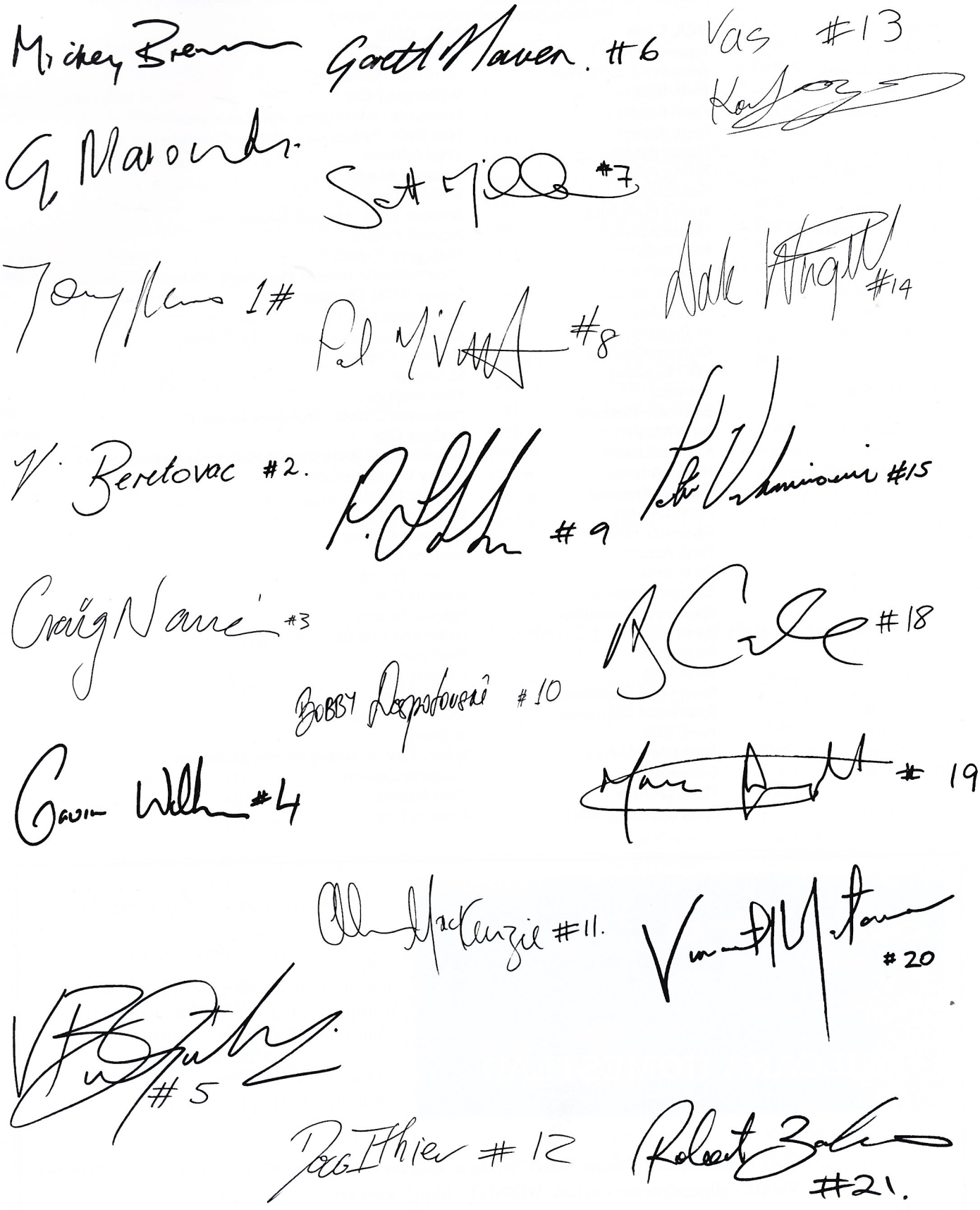
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Vas #13
G Marcoulis
#7
Tony Sume 1#
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